△ Army-Centred Policy–Way of Building a Rich and Powerful Country

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Korea Today

11

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Gift to leader Kim Jong Il from Switzerland

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Army-Centred Policy-Way of Building a Rich and Powerful Country

The army-centred policy of the Workers' Party of Korea is now at the core of the Korean people's endeavours to build a strong and prosperous social-ist country.

The policy is the political method for solving all problems arising in the revolution and construction, based on the principle of putting military affairs ahead of all others, and for pushing ahead with the socialist cause with the People's Army as the pillar, the main force.

When this policy began to be implemented in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, many people around the world thought that it was aimed at cop-ing with the acute prevailing military and political situation, designed merely to increase the military strength of the country.

However, the real state of affairs in Korea led them to have a new understanding of this policy.

In the DPRK, this policy is currently the basic political method of socialism.

It makes it possible to carry on the revolution and construction by one's own efforts, in accordance with the realities of one's own country and in one's own way, and to step up the revolution and con-struction, full of confidence and self-belief, no mat-ter how grave the situation or harsh the ordeal.

That is why the Korean people say that this poli-cy is an almighty, precious sword which enables them to build a prosperous and powerful country by leading the revolution to victory.

Above all, it is a powerful weapon for strength-ening the internal revolutionary forces and dynami-cally advancing the revolution and construction.

If the revolution is to be advanced and completed triumphantly, its internal forces should be strong and firm. The revolution can advance victoriously only when the popular masses, the master of the revolution and its direct maker, are firmly united as a political force.

The armed forces play vital role in strengthening the internal revolutionary forces.

In Korea, primary concern is being directed to cementing the People's Army as the mainstay of the revolution and increasing its political and ideologi-cal strength.

A great deal of effort is going into training the KPA to be an army of unshakeable conviction and faith, and equipping all the people with its revolu-tionary spirit, with a view to consolidating the foun-dations of society by creating complete unity between the army and the people.

The ideological and spiritual state of the men of the KPA and the population of the country is very good. They have unbounded admiration for their leaders-President Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il-and retain their faith in socialism.

The most notable feature of Korean society is that the spirit of guarding the leader with one's life has become the ideological feeling of all the people. The manner of work, morals, culture and fighting spirit of soldiers find their way into society unceas-ingly, thus forming a harmonious whole between the army and the people.

This constitutes a vital force lending constant impetus to the revolution and construction and is the motive power for the building of a rich and pow-erful country.

All the achievements of the Korean people, sur-mounting all difficulties by their own efforts and constructing monumental creations in various parts of the country in the tough recent years, demon-strate the validity and vitality of the aforesaid poli-cy, which makes it possible to strengthen the inter-nal revolutionary forces, with the People's Army at their heart, and accelerate the building of a prosper-ous and powerful country by relying on the united strength of the army and the people.

In addition, this policy is an ever-victorious weapon which has enabled them to safeguard Korean-style socialism from the attacks of the imperialists and enemies of the revolution, adding to its glory.

Ours is an era of struggle, characterized by an acute confrontation between the forces for indepen-dence and the dominationists. Today, the political and military pressure on the part of the imperialists and their aggressive attempts to stamp out social-ism and independent forces are becoming more severe than ever before. If socialism is to be protect-ed and the prosperity of the nation achieved under the present situation, priority should naturally be given to military affairs. History shows that if there is no powerful military strength, national dignity and sovereignty cannot be defended, nor can the country's independent development be achieved.

In response to the prevailing situation, the DPRK has put tremendous effort into laying mili-tary and technical foundations powerful enough to ensure victory in any military confrontation with the imperialists.

A revolutionary command system and military discipline have been intensified throughout the Peo-ple's Army. It is fully-equipped with powerful means of attack and defence, and all soldiers are physically well-prepared. In addition, the arming of all the peo-ple and the fortification of the whole country have been realized on a high level. All this is the result of the WPK's army-centred revolutionary leadership.

In the final analysis, the policy of giving priority to the military is the political means of ensuring invincible military strength and the defence and glo-rification of Korean-style socialism.

Ryu Hui

Quotes from Kim Jong Il

"Those who make revolution feel happy when they make a genuine comrade and feel pain in their heart when they lose him."

"A man who values and loves a revolutionary comrade makes a genuine comrade and lives for ever with his love and care."

"We hate such human relations as becoming brothers when the situation is favourable but becoming indifferent when difficult, and becoming friends when good for the sake of interests or becoming enemies when against the interests."

Footprints of Love and Devotion

On Sunday

ONE day in November Juche 63(1974), leader Kim Jong Il left Pyong-yang to provide field guidance, even though it was a Sunday. He started his tour at dawn to inspect Jaeryong Mine and Pyoksan Cooperative Farm in Jaeryong County, South Hwanghae Province, in the morning, and Thaethan Mine and Haeju Port in the afternoon.

It was midnight before he began the return journey to Pyongyang. The distance he trav-elled that day was as long as 320 kilometres. As his car entered Pyongyang, it was nearly dawn.

While driving the car in the darkness, he asked the officials in the passenger seats, "Even if you go home, you will hardly get any sleep. How about looking round the city instead?"

"Please take even a short rest to relieve the fatigue from the long journey," the officials earnestly requested him.

He said to them, "I had a good rest in the car. I have two ways of resting: one is to read books or documents and the other is to mix with people in the field."

The officials were moved by his comment.

Night on the Road

One summer day in 1990, Kim Jong Il gathered some offi-cials together to accompany him in his car on a trip to look round the east coast of Korea.

Personally taking the steering wheel, he offered them passenger seats. The officials were often driven by him during the night, but they had never seen him drive the car in a state of such extreme tiredness.

Every official told him his own story to help the leader shake off his sleepiness. Laughing some-times and urging them to contin-ue on others, he attentively lis-tened to their stories.

It was dawn the next day when they arrived at their desti-nation.

The officials asked him to sleep a while before beginning his work.

He said, "If I sleep here, why did I leave Pyongyang after dark? In that case, it would have been better to have a sleep before leaving."

Late Night Call

One day in February 1996, an official fell asleep through exhaustion late in the evening.

He was awoken by a sudden telephone call, and was surprised to find that Kim Jong Il was on the other end of the line. The leader first excused himself for awakening the official from his sleep, and then gave instructions in connection with the official's work.

The wall clock was pointing to half past four. Informing the leader of the time, the official asked him to have a sleep.

"Time really flies," the leader responded, putting down the receiver.

Picturing the leader's working all night, the official felt touched.

Kim Jong Il used to say to the officials:

"My pleasure is always in. the happiness of the people.

"I spend many sleepless nights and sometimes skip meals, while I work. But when I hear that people are well off, I feel my fatigue relieved and my body strengthened."

"Second Bugler in Army-Centred Time"

It is three years since KPA officers' wives formed performance groups and made their debut. This year witnessed the fourth of its kind.

Songs from the KPA Merited Chorus, the "bugler" of the KPA Supreme Command in the era of military-centred politics, used to make tens of millions of hearts burn with the power of a volley of a gunbattery, stimulating them to go through the "Arduous March". Now it is songs of the performance groups of KPA officers' wives that encourage the people in the struggle to bring about a new century of prosperity for the country. For this reason the groups are called the No. 2 bugler of the army-centred age.

Officers' wives-they are often referred to as soldiers' families-are ordinary women who silently devote their lives to their husbands and other soldiers. Come rain or shine, they share life's pleasure and misfor-tune with soldiers, sometimes in trenches and sometimes on marches. Their lives are inseparably linked with the military. When soldiers stay outdoors on stormy winter nights, the wives bring them warm stones; when any soldier falls ill, they prepare special dishes and tonics for him. On their visits they usually sing songs to the soldiers, reminding them of their dear parents and family members.

None, however, had dared to think that their performances would develop into art form lead-ing the time, or a wonderful field-stage performance.

One day in Juche 87 (1998), when the whole nation was in the most difficult stage of the "Ardu-ous March", leader Kim Jong Il made the significant suggestion that if officers' families were encouraged to organize performance groups and put on shows, it would be favourable for training themselves in a revolutionary way, for educating the soldiers, and for creating a revolutionary atmosphere throughout the army and an optimistic way of life in society at large.

This is how they came to stage these meaningful perfor-mances and become acclaimed by the public as the flower of the time.

This year's performances revealed the proud and optimistic ethos of the officers' wives, who steel themselves as revolutionaries at posts where their husbands stand guard.

Typical pieces were, the drama and chorus "Socialism Is Ours", which gives the message that they could live without money but not without the socialist system; the poem and drama "Go, Please", intended to show the revolutionary maternal affection which values the homeland higher than the family; the solo "Soldiers Call Me Mother"; the trumpet solo and narrative chorus "General's Family"; the drama and quintet "We Are Sol-diers, Too"; an instrumental version of "My Country Is the Best"; and other pieces, all overflowing with emotional worship of their leader, and the determination to defend socialism and build a powerful country.

Their performances left a tremendous impression everywhere they went, including Jagang, North Phyongan, and the land realignment project in South Hwanghae.

The desire to learn from sol-diers' families as well as the revolutionary spirit of soldiers, is sweeping the country.

Leader Kim Jong Il was pleased with their successful per-formances. Busy as he was, he saw them twice and assessed every item and performer. He gave a party for them all, and saw that they performed at the best theatre in Pyongyang and that they visited KPA units for on-the-road performances.

The unanimous voice of the group members is: "We are proud of being wives of officers in the military-centred age. We will live up to the worthy title of the No. 2 bugler of the KPA Supreme Command."

From Kim Il Sung's Reminiscences "With the Century"

With My Comrades-in-Arms of the Northeast Anti-Japanese Allied Army

During my days in the IAF I was in close contact with and in the same ranks as Zhou Bao-zhong, Zhang Shou-jian, Chai Shirong, Feng Zhong-yun and many other comrades-in-arms of the NAJAA. A long time has passed since then, but I still remember what happened in those days.

Zhou Bao-zhong was in the most frequent contact with me of all the commanders of the NAJAA. My intimate friendship with him started in the first half of the 1930s, when we were working for a united front with the National Salvation Army in Jiandao. I worked with him on the Anti-Japanese Soldiers Committee and together we fought the Luozigou Battle. When we were in Wangqing, we conducted two expeditions to northern Manchuria and each time we carried out joint operations with Zhou Bao-zhong's unit. However, I lost contact with him after we moved the theatre of our activities to the area of Mt. Paektu and West Jiandao in the latter half of the 1930s.

"There are many roads, but one gate." Zhou Bao-zhong always quoted this maxim whenever he parted from me. This implied that, though the theatres of our activities and the courses of our struggle were different, we were sure to meet again some time, for we were both fighting against the Japanese.

When he met me just before the Khabarovsk conference, he said, "You see, Commander Kim, what did I say? Didn't I say there are many roads, but one gate?" and burst out laughing. My meeting with him moved me deeply, for it was effected after the interval of several years.

"Since I heard the news of Commander Yang's death, I've always been worried about the personal safety of my comrades in southern Manchuria. I heard the Japanese imperialists had put a large price on your head, Commander Kim, but you've admirably overcome critical moments. I know well that southern and eastern Manchuria are very dangerous theatres of war. I am delighted to see you alive and well here in Khabarovsk. I've anxiously waited for your arrival," Zhou Bao-zhong said with great sincerity.

He looked much older than before. His face vividly betrayed the hardships and sufferings he had undergone in the vast forests and snow-covered plains.

When I told him that he must have had a very hard time, he said, "Our hardships are nothing. They can't be compared with those experienced by our comrades in southern Manchuria. We wholeheartedly admire you for having won victory after victory without yielding to such great hardships. The people at the Comintern and commanders of the Soviet army also praise you very highly."

At this time the Comintern was hurrying to begin the meeting of the commanders of the guerrilla army in Northeast China and the representatives of the Soviet Far East Forces. Therefore, Zhou and I largely talked about matters concerning the meeting.

Zhou Bao-zhong's ideological problem was how to combine the national and international duties of the revolution, as well as independence and international solidarity in the revolutionary struggle. He eagerly desired to have contact with the Central Committee of the CPC, but he was anxious because he could not do so. It was natural that he, a member of the CPC, had taken pains for many years to develop the revolution in Northeast China under the guidance of the Party Central Committee.

Zhou always gave priority to contact with the Central Committee of the CPC and strove to achieve solidarity with the Soviet Union. This was the general attitude of the Chinese comrades fighting in Northeast China.

At one time the Comintern and the Soviet military authorities had wanted to put the NAJAA under the command of the Soviet Union. Therefore, it was understandable that Zhou Bao-zhong worried that they might try to do so again.

That day Zhou and I reached a consensus: Military and political cooperation and assistance between us and the Soviet Union were urgently needed in view of the prevailing situation. However, the specific form and method of the cooperation and assistance should be settled by properly combining the interests of the revolution in each country with those of the world revolution. In other words, they should be realized by way of maintaining the independence of the NAJAA and the KPRA.

Winding up our talk, Zhou said, "I believe that the speech of the representatives of southern Manchuria will be very important at the forthcoming negotiations. I have complete trust in you, Comrade Kim. In the days of the Anti-Japanese Soldiers Committee, too, you gave the

keynotespeech each time, didn't you. Commander Kim? Let us work in the future, as in the past, joining our efforts to meet the new situation." He sincerely trusted me.

Zhou defended the Soviet Union and always supported the socialist system established there. Nevertheless, he was extremely displeased with the slightest expression of chauvinism in the speech or behaviour of people in that country, or in the way they dealt with matters.

I told him that if he, while strictly adhering to the principle, displayed the spirit of comradely cooperation with generosity, he would be fully able to help them correct their misguided attitude and solve such knotty problems in time.

Zhou nodded and said, "You are really experienced, Commander Kim." I replied, "It's not that I am so experienced, but that you lack one type of experience. You've not shared lodgings with others as we did." To this he said, "That's right. You Korean comrades underwent great hardships in eastern Manchuria because of the 'Minsaengdan' problem."

Already when he was active in Jidong, Zhou criticized the anti-"Minsaengdan" struggle for having been conducted in an ultra-Leftist way and blamed the East Manchuria Special District Party Committee for this because, he asserted, this was due to its error. Since his days in Jiandao, he had been taking a comparatively fair attitude towards the struggle of the Korean revolutionaries.

I mentioned earlier the fact that, following our formation of the ARF, Zhou actively backed the activities of a branch of this association organized in a unit of the NAJAA under his command. This happened in December 1936. His attitude was an expression of international support for and solidarity with the Korean revolution.

Zhou's friendly attitude towards the Korean revolution can be attributed to the fact that we had helped him with sincerity from the first days of the guerrilla movement and exerted a favourable influence on him through a number of joint operations.

During the first expedition to northern Manchuria we helped him by transferring the majority of the expeditionary force to his unit. At that time we conducted a number of joint operations with our comrades in northern Manchuria.

During the second expedition to northern Manchuria we organized the joint general headquarters of the 2nd and 5th Corps and carried out large-scale joint operations. Zhou Bao-zhong was the commander, I, the political commissar and Ping Nan-yang (Li Jing-pu), the deputy commander. The six units under the general headquarters were each assigned to their respective areas of operations. Zhou Bao-zhong was in charge of the Antu unit in the west, and I took charge of the Weihe unit.

We organized a headquarters for each region, such as the headquarters of the western front and those of the central front. We attached a number of units to these headquarters and carried out joint operations in the area between Fusong and Muling.

Such were the close relations between Zhou Bao-zhong and me. Probably because of these ties, in the days of the IAF Zhou discussed with me all problems, both major and minor. Even when he had some problem to discuss with Soviet people, he first asked my opinion. When I asked why he did so, he replied that this was because he had been accustomed to listening to my advice since his days in Jiandao.

In the days of the IAF, Zhou, regardless of the differences in our ranks, always respected me as the Commander of the KPRA, the leader of the Korean revolution and the representative of the Korean side in the allied forces. We worked in concert, supporting and helping each other like the cochairmen of some organizations usually did, because we respected each other. The relations between Zhou and me were comradely and fraternal ones based on deep respect and trust.

I had a good impression of Zhou mainly because he, more than any one else, highly appreciated the exploits of the Korean communists and other Korean people who had played the role of vanguards in pioneering and developing the revolution in Northeast China.

Once he said that there were two things that he could never forget. One of them was that it was Koreans who played a vanguard role in the anti-Japanese guerrilla struggle.

His attitude to the Korean revolution was clear. He regarded it as natural for the Koreans to fight for the Korean revolution, and always asserted that the revolution in Northeast China would have been inconceivable without the Koreans.

He said that the KPRA was the 2nd Corps of the NAJAA, and always extolled the alliance between the anti-Japanese armed forces of Korea and China that existed in the course of their common struggle.

Pointing out the vanguard role played by the Korean communists in the revolution in Northeast China, Zhou Bao-zhong said, "The strong guerrilla army in eastern Manchuria built in 1932 and the guerrilla armies in Panshi, Zhuhe, Mishan, Tangyuan and Raohe established in 1933 were all founded by the Korean comrades and the revolutionary masses of Korea. In later days they developed into the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th Corps of the Anti-Japanese Allied Army. There were many fine Korean comrades in the 5th Corps, too. The leading military and political cadres at various levels of all the corps of the Anti-Japanese Allied Army, such as commanders of corps, chiefs of political departments, platoon leaders and instructors, were all Korean comrades."

The following letters Zhou sent to Wang Xin-lin clearly show how much he respected and how highly he appreciat-ed the great leader. They read in part:

"Kim Il Sung is the best military cadre ... and the finest of all the Korean comrades. He can carry out very impor-tant activities in the southern part of Manchuria, in the eastern region of the Amnok River and in the northern area of Korea." (Zhou Bao-zhong to Wang Xin-lin, July 1, Juche30(1941).)

"Kim Il Sung is now the only important cadre in the 1st Route Army in southern Manchuria. After the death of Yang Jing-yu and Wei Zheng-min, Kim Il Sung alone con-tinues to shoulder the responsibility for the leadership of the guerrilla movement in southern Manchuria and for all affairs concerning southern Manchuria as a whole." (Zhou Bao-zhong to Wang Xin-lin, September 15, Juche 30 (1941).)

What I regarded as another good thing in Zhou Bao-zhong was the fact that he always adhered to principles in the revolutionary struggle and fervent-ly championed the revolution in his own country. He did not tolerate the tendency to subordinate the Chi-nese revolution to the revolution in the Soviet Union or make it the latter's appendage. He stood for soli-darity with the Soviet revolution and for the defence of the Soviet Union based on proletarian interna-tionalism, but he always maintained the indepen-dence of the Chinese revolution and its independent development.

Zhou's principled stand towards the revolution was identical with ours. My view is that the worth of a revolutionary is directly proportional to the firm-ness of his independent stand towards the revolu-tion. The firmer his independent stand, the higher his prestige is. When our independence is unshak-able, the revolution is ever-victorious.

In the days of the IAF, Zhou Bao-zhong always called me Commander Kim. However, when he came to Pyongyang following Korea's liberation, he never called me that. Although he asked me to call him Commander Zhou in a familiar way, as in former days, he always called me Comrade Premier.

I requested that he call me Commander Kim as before, because I was not accustomed somehow to being called Comrade Premier and also because I thought that by this we might create an unnecessary estrangement. However, each time he would stiffen his expression and say, "No, I shouldn't."

Sometimes Zhou and I argued. Once he persisted in his own opinion it was not easy to exact a conces-sion from him, for he was so obstinate. I did not con-cede readily, either. Nevertheless, in the long run we would reach a consensus, regulating our assertions and supplementing one man's view with the other's opinion. In this way our friendship became firm and we came to understand each other more fully.

Zhou and I frequently had private talks, too. Zhou's main topics of conversation were his family and comrades. He had a little daughter whose name was Zhou Wei. She was born when he had already reached the age of 40, so he loved her very much. The more she frolicked, the greater was his pride in telling me about her. Each time he boasted about her, there was the pleasant smile of a happy father on his face.

Zhou and his wife, Wang Yi-zhi, served in the same unit for a long time. They were married in the thick forests of northern Manchuria.

Whenever Zhou talked about his wife and daugh-ter, his eyes became bright. He was fond of private talks. Sometimes he advanced his opinion about the peculiar way of life of the Nanay people residing in the neighbourhood of his unit or about a Russian couple in a boarding house in Khabarovsk. His pow-ers of observation and description were admirable.

Once he told me about the cockfight holiday which was celebrated in his native village in Yun-nan Province. According to him, in his home provin-ce people dressed themselves in new clothes on February 8 by the lunar calendar, and held cock-fighting competitions in the streets. The people of that region adored chickens. According to a legend, their ancestors became prosperous by raising chick-ens. There was even a saying that they maintained their families by relying on chickens.

Zhou said that, though they could not rely on chickens to tide over the national crisis, he would be as brave as a fighting cock in repulsing the enemy.

He looked taciturn and blunt, but was kindhearted and faithful to his obligations. He knew how to show good will to a man of good will and offer sym-pathy to a sympathetic man. The latter half of his life shows this clearly.

He took particular trouble with his work in the IAF for many years. He strove with devotion for the development of the Chinese revolution, but he was always faithful to his internationalist duty. If he had ignored his duty to the world revolution, attaching importance only to the revolution in his own coun-try, or if he had remained indifferent to the latter, talking bombastically about the former, he would not have deserved lengthy recollection.

Whenever Zhou Bao-zhong dispatched small units to Northeast China to maintain a strong life-line for the guerrilla movement, I felt he was a true son of the Chinese people. And whenever I saw him striving for the friendship and solidarity of the vari-ous national units within the allied forces as well as for the defence of the Soviet Union, I realized he was a genuine internationalist fighter.

He was efficient in managing the ranks and eco-nomic life of the IAF. There were many complex problems in the allied forces, an aggregation of dif-ferent national units. He was involved in almost

everything, ranging from the formulation of the training programme, the guidance of the training and personnel matters to the construction of a club.

One day a deserter was a source of his worry, and another day he was bathed with sweat because of a traffic accident.

In the early days following the formation of the IAF, he had some trouble because some Soviet officers would not cooperate with him. However, the strict demands on the part of the Soviet military authorities completely changed the Soviet officers' attitudes.

Zhou Bao-zhong always strove to lead his men by personal example.

When parachute training was held in Camp North, he took part in it in company with his men from the first day. One day he nearly lost his life when his parachute failed to open. Fortunately, his backup parachute opened, and he escaped with only a shoulder injury.

Once some Chinese comrades requested me to advise Zhou not to parachute any more, but I did not do so for I knew too well that such advice would fall on deaf ears.

In the spring of 1951 Wang Yi-zhi, the then chief of the Women's Federation of Yunnan Provin- ce, came to see me at the Supreme Headquarters during her visit to Pyongyang as a member of a group of sympathizers. Seeing me, she shed tears, saying that she was glad to find me healthy despite the fact that I was shouldering the heavy burden of the hard-fought war. Then she said, "Bao-zhong begs you never to go to the dangerous front, but take the utmost care of your personal safety."

I was grateful to Zhou for this, so I said to Wang: "Convey my thanks to Commander Zhou upon your return, please."

Wang Yi-zhi replied, "This is Bao-zhong's request and, at the same time, mine. We Chinese are now greatly concerned about your personal safety, Comrade Premier." According to her, in the days of the IAF, too, Zhou Bao-zhong could not bring himself to go to bed and was worried about me, going in and out of his room all night, if I did not return from my small-unit activities on sched- ule. Our friendship transcended borders and nationalities. (To be continued)

From Chapter 23 "In Alliance With the International Anti-Imperialist Forces," Part 1 "The Anti-Japanese Revolution

Sinhung Area Revolutionary Battle Site

THE Sinhung area revolutionary battle site lies in the alpine region covering Sinhung, Pujon and Jangjin counties of South Hamgyong Province.

This battle site was formerly a secret base. It was set up in the summer of Juche 26 (1937), in line with the policy of extending the armed struggle to the heart of the homeland put forward at a meeting of military and political cadres of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army (known as the Xigang meeting) during the anti-Japanese rev- olutionary struggle. The base operated until the day of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule (August 1945).

President Kim Il Sung, then in his twenties, came to this area on several occasions to personally organize and guide KPRA small units and underground political workers and inspire the workers, peasants and all other sections of the population to an all-people resistance struggle for national liberation.

Every chain of the steep mountains and every deep valley around the Pujon ridge are associated with stories of the President's exploits. He took the revolutionary fighters into his warm embrace and gave them confidence, giving detailed guidance to them in their work. It was he who aroused the masses to an all-people struggle for the country's liberation.

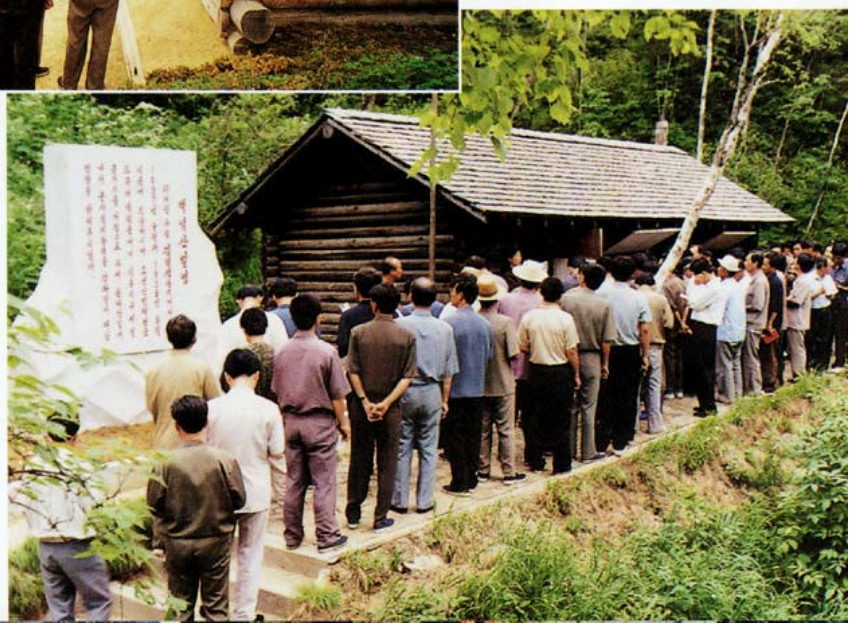
The stories tell of the various revolutionary activities of the President: the fact that, after receiving a report on the struggle of the underground political workers, he assigned them a new *(To be continued on page 11)*

In front of the map showing the distribution of the revolutionary battle sites in the Sinhung area.

The site of the former barracks.

Visitors at the Paekyoksan Secret Camp.

The Pujonnyong Secret Base.



Kim Jong Suk, heroine of the anti-Japanese struggle, once lived in this hut.

The cabin where Kim Jong Suk worked.

The tree bearing the words "Branch of the Sinhung Liberation Association".

The liaison point on top of Mt. Okryon.

(Continued from page 8)

task and indicated the way ahead for their activities; the warm comradeship he displayed for the soldiers who fell in action, fulfilling his revolutionary obligation to them; and the days when he sat down with coal miners or old men in a village and chatted with them unreservedly, calling upon them to turn out in the anti-Japanese resistance struggle.

Evidence of anti-Japanese woman general Kim Jong Suk's presence can also be found at this battle site.

It can be seen at a stone-built liaison office building at the top of Mt. Okryon, at a log cabin in the secret camp on Mt. Kodae and on the high and low mountain ridges she went up and down to find a safe and sunny place for the guerrillas HQ. Remnants of the HQ and barracks as well as slogan-bearing trees can be seen in this area-the secret camps on Mts. Paekyok, Okryon and Kodae.

Out of sheer desire to glorify the revolutionary traditions of the Workers' Party of Korea, the people here have developed the area comprehensively and established a well-organized system for the eternal preservation of relics associated with the period.

At the foot of a picturesque mountain in Yong-go-ri, Sinhung County, is the Sinhung monument to revolutionary activities and a map showing the distribution of battle sites in the Sinhung area.

In May this year, leader Kim Jong Il provided on-the-spot guidance in the area and gave important instructions which serve as a guiding principle in inheriting and carrying forward the revolutionary traditions.

This area is visited by many people day in, day out, as it has turned into an important educational base for arming the people with the revolutionary spirit.

Article by Kirn Il Sin

Photo by Kirn Jong Su

The Eleven Cryptomeria Trees

One day not long ago I was touring South Hwanghae Province for an article about the newly transformed fields.

Soon after we left Pyongyang my car took the road to Haeju, the capital city of the province.

"It's wonderful, isn't it?" my driver said enthusiastically. "I'm always happy driving on this road. Look at the lines of cryptomerias. I feel as if I were inspecting their parade."

"So do I," I said. "You can see this kind of tree in Pyongyang, Sariwon, Hamhung-everywhere you go. But they are unusually common here. Any direction you go from Haeju-to the Yonbaek plain, to Pyoksong, to the Ongjin peninsula-you see lush woods of cryptomeria. It's because they first propagated here in this province."

I recalled the history of the new cryptomerias, which had put roots into Korean soil here.

Many years before I visited the Ongjin Botanical Garden, which had been conducting research into cryptomerias. (The garden was geared to the study of southern plants.) There I heard the story about the trees from an old botanist.

One day during the Fatherland Liberation War from June 1950 to July 1953, the then Supreme Commander of the KPA, Kim Il Sung, received a gift of a young potted cryptomeria from a commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers. The cryptomeria family had lived lushly across the Northern Hemisphere between the Cretaceous period of the Mesozoic era and the Tertiary of the Cenozoic. All of them had been believed to have died during the glacial period, but some were discovered in Sichuan and Hubei provinces, China, in 1945.

Kim Il Sung grew this tree beside his desk at the Supreme Headquarters until the end of the war. He then transplanted it in the garden of his house and saw that it adapted to the local climate and soil. Later he summoned botanists and told them to propagate the species widely. He presented 11 saplings to the Ongjin Botanical Garden on February 5, Juche 52 (1963). The trees grew and spread throughout the province, and you can now see them across the country. The 11 original cryptomerias, which have grown tall and sturdy, still stand in the garden at Ongjin.

Hearing the story, the driver said in an emotional voice, "Now I know President Kim Il Sung introduced these trees to our country and handed them over to the younger generation as a treasure of the Workers' Party era."

The car cruised pleasantly along the road lined with regularly-spaced cryptomerias.

I felt they were like exclamation marks in my mind.

Ki Yong Sam

The Family of Rifle-Holders

One of the most patriotic fam-ilies in Korea may be one from Kwanpho-dong, Nampho city. Local residents call it the family of nine rifle-holders.

In January 1968 the armed US navy spy ship Pueblo was captured by the KPA navy. The ensuing American military movements drove the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of another war. At that critical moment, father of the family Ri Pong Myong told his eldest son Ri Jong Jin, "The enemy is going to swallow our country, and now nothing is more important than for you to take up the rifle and defend the nation. You know, with no country, there is no happy family."

As he had experienced that the country is more important than his own life, Ri urged his son to join the army. During the period of Japanese colonial rule he had been humiliated and mal-treated as a servant at a landowner's house. The August 15, Juche 34 (1945) liberation was the major landmark in the course of his life; the day his gen-uine life as a human being began. Then the US started the

Korean war on June 25, 1950. Ri immediately volunteerd to go to the front in order to defend his country. He decided that to pro-tect the country was precisely to safeguard his happy home and himself. He fought bravely until being blinded by an enemy incen-diary. He was sorry that he could not stay at the front until the day of victory. Later, he raised his children hoping they would revenge him.

His wish came (rue, for his son became a soldier.

Years passed. One year after Jong Jin was promoted to officer, the next two brothers reached the same rank.

Around the time when the fourth brother Jong Bin had almost finished his rank-and-file service, Jong Jin met an officer who was in charge of the broth-er's unit. The officer told him that as Jong Bin was clearly talented it would be better to send him to a relevant civilian educational institution. Jong Jin met Jong Bin and conveyed the opinion of his officer. "What do you choose?" he asked.

Jong Bin replied, "How do you think I can put down my gun when the enemy who took my father's eyesight are still aiming at us? I will remain in the army until the day of reunification, like you older brothers. Don't worry about me."

Jong Jin was proud that his brother had grown not only in physical, but also in ideological and spiritual stature.

The day Jong Bin finished military academy, he heard that his youngest sister had also joined the army. He wrote a let-ter to her, part of it reading, "I, too, became an officer today. I'm sure I would not be so happy even if I had graduated from a civilian university. I know peace rests on our guns. National prosperity also lies on the same guns, so no job is more important than ours. Dear sister, let us remember the wish of our parents and live up to the worthy name of 'family of rifle-holders'."

All nine brothers and sisters became soldiers.

Such families are found gen-eration after generation in Korea. The nation's security and pros-perity are strengthened by the growing number of such families. Choe Pong Chol

Korian Proverbs

Strength plus mind will win all.

A genuine friend is known when in difficulty.

Gourd leaking in the house is the same in the field

Machine-Tool Production Grows

I recently went to Mangyongdae Machine-tool Factory after hearing the news that it had been making new achievements in production. Located not far from downtown Pyongyang, it has ten workshops, covering areas like processing, assembly and a workshop producing everyday items for the community.

I stopped first at the planning section of the factory.

"Production is going quite well," said section chief Jong Chol, offering me some papers showing production levels. According to the data, the factory exceeded its industrial products target by 28.4 per cent and the everyday items target by 57.6 per cent in January this year. In May, industrial products were 30.3 per cent ahead of target, machine-tools registered 33 per cent higher and the everyday items figure was 66.6 per cent above.

The factory had also successfully exceeded the targets for shaper and plane grinder production. It was immediately apparent that production had been growing month by month without exception.

Jong Chol said proudly that these achievements were made when the production targets for exported machine-tools and for everyday items were 30 per cent and ten per cent higher respectively than last year.

He then showed me round the preparation, pro- cessing and assembly workshops. Machines were working well and seemed to be in good condition. The preparation workshop ensures that materials are available well in advance of requirement.

I noticed that the processing and assembly work- shops had big boards on the walls that showed their own production targets over 1.2 times the targets set by the state.

The manager of the processing workshop said, "With the beginning of the new century, my work- shop is in high spirits. The entire nation is out to make this year a year of new advance in building a strong economy in the 21st century. President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il inspected our factory several times. We regard that as a great honour. We always work towards increasingly high- er goals."

- The workshop was also working hard to renovate equipment. A field engineer explained that a major concern of the workshop was to get new, modern and efficient facilities and improve the operation of existing equipment, as required by the demands of the new century. He convinced me that this high level of production was normal and that productivity was growing rapidly.

There are still many difficulties facing the Korean people as they make their way through the new century in the spirit of the victorious "Arduous March". The machine-tool factory is short of power and materials, but the workers are not disappointed; they are cutting their way through the hardships with the revolutionary spirit of soldiers. Their class consciousness and comradeship are also strongly sustaining them.

At the assembly workshop I found lines of machine-tools undergoing final touches.

The chief of the technical development section in the workshop told me that shapers, grinders and other kinds of tools from this factory are exported to Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

The factory was concentrating on developing new products like the digital electric ity-discharge machining lathe.

My next leg was at the steel-casting branch factory, which had achieved its production target for the first half of this year one and a half months ahead of schedule. I was told that the branch, while supplying cast-steel materials to the factory, also supplies other factories in Pyongyang.

Everywhere I went, I saw the workers striving to play their part in the building of a powerful economy and nation.

Leaving the factory, I was sure it would achieve further success in produc tion.

Han Pong Chan

Workers at Mangyongdae Machine-Tool Factory direct efforts towards the improvement of product quality.

Songchongang Power Stations

__In__ South Hamgyong Province on the east coast, __33__ minor power stations were built on the River Songchon, in line with the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on building small and medium-sized power stations in large numbers as well as large-sized ones.

Recently, a Korea Today reporter interviewed Song Thae Jin, director of the minor electric power production management bureau of the South Hamgyong Provincial People's Committe

Question: You've gone to great lengths to construct these power stations. As they have been built in an unusual style, the power stations are favourably commented upon by the construc- tion industry. I'd like to know what motivated you to begin construction of them.

Answer: The River Songchon is a relatively large river. It flows from the Kumphae ridge of the Pujon mountain range and, head- ing southwestwards, empties into the East Sea of Korea, via Sin-hung and Yonggwang counties and Hamhung city.

According to a field investigation, the river falls 8 to 10 metres per 2,000 metres on its journey to the sea, and the volume of water from the existing power stations in the upper reaches is substantial.

This provided favourable con- ditions for the construction of the power stations. As a result, work began on the banks of the River Songchon in July Juche 86 (1997).

Q: Could you tell me about the characteristics of the power stations?

A: First of all, the power stations have no dams. In general, hydropower stations have dams built across the river to hold back the water and generate electricity by making use of its energy.

But we designed the power stations so that they would be

Songchonggang Power Station No. 22.

able to produce electricity by means of a tiered waterway.

Our power stations also have no current transformers. Technicians made it possible to refashion the 400V low-tension generator into a 3,300-terminal voltage high-tension generator so as to supply electric current without the transformer.

Our power stations are of everlasting value.

We have cut the waterway along the Songchon riverside and excavated its bed lower than the bottom of the river so that it is not affected by flood and drought damage. In addition, water at 4°C from the power stations built in the upper reaches is used. Therefore, water is ice-free even in winter, and this enables us to produce electricity all the year round.

Q: I think it is no easy matter to undertake such a large project.

A: So it is. We expected problems to some extent when we set about the project, but it was much more difficult than anticipated, largely because it was undertaken in the period of the "Arduous March" when our country was going through trying ordeals.

We continued work on the project in winter, too. We produced concrete mixture by heating up gravel and sand with fires we made. We covered the concrete mixture with dead leaves we raked up and even with blankets and quilts in order to keep it free of ice.

That was while we were pushing forward the project for laying out conduit pipes across the Kwansu stream.

It was difficult to hoe up the soil, because the bed of the stream was hard as a brick. Blood oozed out of the blisters that formed on our palms. When we came out after working in the water, the bottom of our shoes were frozen to the ground covered with gravel. This difficult project continued for dozens of days. The difficulties we encountered in those days defy description.

Powerful slogans or words written on the completed power stations and various other structures, such as "Love the future!", "All turn out to build a rich and powerful country!" and "In the days of the "Arduous March"" reflect the conviction of the builders that victory will be theirs.

Q: The construction of the power stations will make a significant contribution to improving the living standard of the people, and it also adds beauty to the scenery of this area, I think.

A: That's right. In recent years, leader Kim Jong Il provided on-the-spot guidance several times and gave instructions that all units should actively follow the example of the Songchongang power stations. He said that the power stations are reliable, real power stations which enable the people to enjoy the benefits of electricity and which are not affected by drought. Then he added meaningfully that the River Songchon has become a precious river.

The electricity produced at the power stations is used for lighting and household heating for the local population and for the operation of local factories.

More than 50 modern houses for workers at the power stations lie in the vicinities, all of them enclosed with walls made of skilfully trimmed and elaborately laid native rocks. There are also Yonggwang Youth Fish Breeding Pool which covers dozens of hectares of area and 20 duck pens large enough to raise more than 10,000 ducks. It all presents a very fine view.

It is envisaged that fish breeding will be undertaken in the 200-hectare section of waterway.

Q: What kind of work are you planning to do additionally?

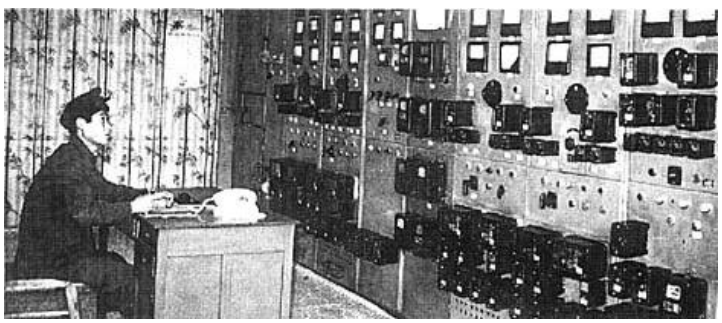
A: We are going to continue to build minor power stations in the future.

First of all, we are going to build Songchongang Power Station No. 34, with the capacity to generate several thousand KW of electricity, and then build a large-scale dam to ensure the full supply of water to the existing power stations.

We are also planning to computerize all power stations as soon as possible, by making effective use of the experience gained in the construction of Songchongang Power Station No. 32.

Reporter: Thank you.

The power distribution center of Songchonggang Power Station No.30



Nice Place to Work

The Anju Soy Factory is a locally-run enterprise in Anju city, South Phyongan Province, producing mainly soy and bean paste.

The factory has never failed to fulfill yearly tar-gets set in national economic plans. It has done a fine job in supplying local residents, and its prod-ucts are popular.

Factory manager Kang Chi Mo received me warmly and told me about the history of the plant.

It was inaugurated as the Anju branch of the Kaechon Combine on June 10, Juche 39 (1950). At the time there were a few one-story buildings and some ovens and jars as production facilities, but these were soon destroyed in air raids during the war, started by the US fifteen days after the factory went into operation. The workers didn't allow this to break their spirit, and they rose to reconstruct their factory.

It has now developed into a modern plant, with a total floor space of 3,000 square metres on a site measuring 20,000 square metres.

Years ago, the factory faced hard times.

American moves to stifle the DPRK created a worsening economic situation with the result that the plant could no longer procure sufficient quanti-ties of beans and coal. The management knew they could not ask the state for their materials at a time of shortage, so they turned to uncultivated land which had been regarded as sterile to make up for the lack of beans. They also installed a heating sys-tem the circulation of which does not require elec-tricity and a boiler fed with substitute fuel, to cut the consumption of coal.

Not content with these achievements, they began to transform all production processes. Dozens of ideas and proposals were introduced, some of which were evaluated as state patents.

Their devoted struggle to overcome their difficul-ties resulted in greater success in production than ever before, and the factory was nominated a national model in April last year.

To keep in step with the times, the management and workers are trying hard to computerize produc-tion processes. Most of the employees are women, but their routine is to study and practice computing after work. As a result, the factory has already acquired the capacity to solve problems in produc tion and management by means of computers.

The automation control room of the soy production team.

In the general computer control office you can see the first production process to the last at a glance. Production instructions can also be given at any time.

Kim Yon Hui from the bean paste team said, "As the song goes, labour is really the source of our singing and dancing. I had never dreamed I would be able to produce such high-quality paste without getting my hands wet, using computers in a sunny building. Now I know that the campaign for infor-mation technology in all sectors of the national economy is for the sake of us workers."

Everyone I met was proud of their workplace.

The factory is making strenuous efforts to fur-ther improve the computerization of manufacturing processes.

Yun Yong Gum

Setting a High Goal

A vigorous drive is under way in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to breed grass-eating domestic animals on a large scale.

The Taho Cooperative Farm in Jongphyong County, South Hamgyong Province, can be cited as an example.

A livestock shed suggestive of a small factory at a glance nestles cosily at the foot of a small moun-tain. It consists of a reddish brown tile-roofed feed processing room, three blocks of neat, white-washed pigsties, a 40-metre long, two-storey rabbitry, and, behind them, pens for ducks, geese and hens, chlorella cultivation room, etc.. All this is under the care of the livestock breeding workteam.

It had only pigsties and rabbit-ry of small capacity six years ago. The present one is what its mem-bers have expanded, setting them-selves a high goal, with the posi-tive help of both the farm manage-ment board and the ri committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

It was no easy job from the outset; there was nowhere to ask for a piece of brick and a gram of cement. They, however, could not remain idle without taking any measure. They drew up designs by themselves, and in spare time fetched earth to make clay blocks. The walls rose up layer by layer.

A hard nut to crack was that they had not enough time to push ahead with construction and ani-mal breeding at the same time.

The whole farm gave labour assistance to them. After the day's work all the farm members hurried to the construction site, not to their homes, and helped them in building the shed, with a bonfire kept alive.

"It was quite an arduous undertaking and yet worthwhile. Getting feed was a more difficult problem," said the workteam leader Kang Hyon Ok, dwelling on those days.

As she said, her workteam had to get feed on its own, because the whole country was on the "Arduous March" at that time.

After a succession of discus-sions the workteam members decided to till patches of field and uncultivated land on the slope to use them as a feed base.

They removed piles of stones and tilled one patch after anoth-er, which was also not so an easy job as they thought. But finally, through their hard work, ten hectares of feed base was created. Beans and corns were sown and gathered to be used as feed, and chlorella and other nutritious assorted feed were produced by the workteam itself.

On the other hand, a great effort was put into securing good breeds. Primary attention was directed to raising Taegwan brindled rabbits, Jongphyong ducks of new breed and other good breeds of domestic animals with great economic effective-ness.

A great deal of effort is going into improving the skill level of the breeders. Technical study, passing-on-technique and scien-tific and technological debate are regularly conducted to discuss in detail how to breed animals -young and mother pigs, young rabbits, geese, and so on.

More than ten members of the workteam graduated from or are in attendance at the faculty of animal husbandry of the Hamhung University of Agricul-ture and a college of agriculture.

In the course of this the breeders' skill level improved considerably, and advanced breeding methods were intro-duced. As a result, last year alone hundreds of animals were pro-duced more than before.

Special attention is being paid to the veterinary and anti-epizoot-ic work. Cleaning and disinfecting the pens are being conducted on a regular basis, and inoculation is done with the help of the state or by the workteam itself.

Many other cooperative farms are benefiting from its experi-ence.

In recent years the workteam overfulfilled its assignment for the national economic plan every year. Not content with their achievements, all its members are working hard, setting them-selves the goal of breeding domestic animals more than before.

Close attention is paid to the raising of pigs.

Books on Korean Leaders Published in Russia

The books "Recollection of Victor" and "The Stars Are Shining Under the Sun" were recently published by Paleya-Mishin Publishing House in Russia.

Both books were written by Irina Pirogova, a former politi- cal commentator for the Rus- sian newspaper Patriot.

She wrote "Recollection of Victor" in the style of introduc- ing her impressions of President Kim Il Sung's reminiscences "With the Century", and giv- ing a summary of its main con- tents. It consists of eight chap- ters, including "Stream of Rec- ollection", "Incarnation of Trust" and "Revolution and Love".

In "The Stars Are Shining Under the Sun", she proclaims leader Kim Jong 11's greatness, attracted by his image as a great man while on a visit to the DPRK.

It has 22 chapters, includ- ing "Who Makes the Stars Shine?" and "Land of Glory".

Showpiece of Heavy Industry

-At the Three-Revolution Exhibition-

Some time ago, I looked, round the heavy industry section at the Three-Revolution Exhibition, situated in the northwestern part of Pyongyang. Occupying 20,000 square metres in the middle of the exhibition, the hall has thousands of items on display showing the development of Korea's heavy industry. On the first floor are the products of the power, mining, ship-building, and machine industries, while the second floor features natural resources development, forestry, building materials, construction,transportation and chemicals.

Guided by Jo Song Ho, techni- cal affairs official at the exhibition, I looked round the hall with great interest.

What attracted me most were the products of the machine-building industry, the core of heavy industry. Words like "automation", "robotization" and "computerization" hung over the machine industry section, as well as charts illustrating achievements in these areas.

My eyes were caught by computer-operated machine-tools which meet the requirements of modern industry in the era of the information technology. The CNC Kusong 104,manufactured by the Kusong Machine-tool Factory, has won favourable comment on international markets. The built-in computer is programmed to process materials automatically. Twelve cutters are fixed to the turrethead and are substituted automatically to cut a given material. It meets the specifications required of a modern machine-tool. Productivity is 6 times higher than other machine-tools and its precision rate is to one thousandth of a millimetre.

Another interest of mine was the flexible manufacturing cell and system (FMS) developed by the Huichon Machine-tool Factory and Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering. The guide explained, "This is an excellent application of computer technology. It is of high practical value."

It produces different kinds of boxes like the one for gears in machine-tools, hence it is sometimes called box-FMS. The FMS needs no human control; it can transport, process and examine materials. It rationalizes and automates production processes, and increases productivity and precision ten-fold. Using information exchanged between computers and robots, the FMS controls a digital multi-purpose lathe, storerooms and handles production data. It can find the cause of a breakdown. I was greatly impressed by the system.

The guide told me that the machine industry of Korea had a strong foundation to introduce information technology into machine-tools and that many plants were pushing ahead with such schemes forcefully. The Kusong Machine-tool Factory, which was inspected by leader Kim Jong Il in February this year, has already manufactured an all-purpose turning lathe which is computer-controlled.

Leaving the heavy industry hall, I was sure that the achievements in the machine-tool indus try would open up a brighter future for our country.

Ki Yong Sam

The building housing the heavy industry exhibits.

Visitors listen to an explanation of the flexible manufacturing system.

The CNC Kusong 104.

Mechanical products on show.

A drilling machine.

A perforating-and-tunnelling machine.

A wheel of turbine.

Vehicles, locomotives and other heavy machinery on display outdoors at the exhibition.

Biological Resources on the Increase

A red light is flashing for mankind. The ecosystem, including the soil, air and water, has been severely damaged, endangering lives and posing a "threat to mankind more terrible than war."

According to available data, 26 million hectares of fertile land is destroyed and the desert area enlarges by 6 million hectares every year. Rivers and lakes are dying.

Around the world, 1.7 billion people are now suffering from a shortage of drinking water.

The UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) predicts that the loss caused by the destruction of the ecosystem will be 70 billion dollars in 2050.

Many countries of the world are therefore paying great attention to this problem and international organizations are taking various measures to deal with it.

The UN conference on development and the environment held in June 1992 adopted a convention on biodiversity which aims to protect bio-diversity and get younger generations to use it. Our country is a party to the convention.

Korea suffered consecutive natural disasters such as the flood damage in Juche 84 (1995) and Juche 85 (1996) and the drought in Juche 86 (1997). But it promotes the work required for the fulfilment of the convention from the viewpoint that the successful protection of bio-diversity accords with the interests of present and future generations as well as national, regional and global interests.

The DPRK's long-term objective for the protection of bio-diversity lays emphasis on turning the country into a place where birds and animals can flourish, allowing the people to benefit from their natural resources through the comprehensive and constant development of mountains, rivers and seas.

Since the ratification of the convention by the state in October Juche 83 (1994), various measures have been taken to put it into practice.

The legal basis for the protection of the natural environment has been consolidated and action plans mapped out. After the signing of the convention, laws on forestry, land and water resources were passed, and in Juche 87 (1998) the DPRK law on the protection and control of the land environment was promulgated and a scheme aiming to create 1.5 million hectares of forest is now being pushed forward, in accordance with the 10-year plan for the creation of forest.

The Ministry of Fisheries and other government units drew up plans to carry through the law on fisheries (1995) and the law on the prevention of sea contamination (1997), and plans to protect and multiply marine resources. They have carried them out rigorously every year to successfully protect the ecosystem of seas, rivers and lakes.

The DPRK government also instituted regulations for the regions to be protected. The rules for the prevention of contamination of Lake Chon on Mt. Paektu adopted in January Juche 85 (1996) are an example. They aim to stop contamination of Lake Chon, protect the natural environment and survey changes of animals and plants and the surrounding terrain and water quality of the lake.

In line with the nature-remaking plan of the Workers' Party of Korea, land realignment projects were undertaken on a large scale in Kangwon, North Phyongan and South Hwanghae provinces to protect the ecological environment of agriculture and ensure high, stable yields.

Land realignment will be continued in the future, too.

Great attention is also paid to river improvement.

Recently, nearly 4,500 kilometres of rivers were arranged in South Hwanghae Province.

In coastal areas, conservation work has been done to prevent damage from tidal waves and typhoons.

In the DPRK there are more than 100 nature reserves, including 15 animal conservation areas, 6 for sea birds, 14 for plants and 15 marine resources preservation areas.

As a result, there are more than 500 endemic species of plants and 40 kinds of animals, and internationally protected birds, such as spoonbills and cranes, nest in Korea.

Supportive Neighbours

From long ago, Korean people have regarded the promotion of close friendship between neigh-bours as one of their finest cus-toms. They take pride in it from generation to generation.

The etiquette between neighbours is the most typical exam-ple of Korean manners, for it encompasses a high sense of obligation, sympathy and courte-ousness.

They share their neighbours' pleasure and sorrow as their own, regarding it as their duty to help others. Examples of this behavior are found among the residents of Neighbourhood Unit No. 13, Puk-song-dong No.2, Phyongchon District, Pyongyang.

"'A neighbour is better than a cousin.' I think this saying applies to the kind-hearted resi-dents in my unit," said the leader of the neighbourhood unit as she began her story.

One day in October last year, residents who were chatting out-side the apartment block noticed a grief-stricken young woman who was on her way home.

Her weary look showed the signs of exhaustion from taking care of her sick mother, who was suffering from an incurable dis-ease.

"She's the girl from No. 3 on the ground floor. Her father died and, worse still, her mother is sick. She is really worried," one of the residents explained.

"Her family problems are tak-ing the bloom from her marriage-able age."

Listening to their words of commiseration, the leader of the neighbourhood unit was lost in deep thought. We must take care of her family, she thought. The first priority was to find her a husband, so she looked hard for a suitable bachelor. Finally, she found a presentable young man to introduce to her.

The man, greatly moved by the residents, proposed to the girl.

With the wedding-day approaching, people showed their absolute sincerity.

They purchased wedding clothes, souvenirs, fruit, wine and confectionery to be laid on the wedding table, and fragrant bou-quets to decorate the formal table.

The bride and groom, as well as their relatives, felt lumps in their throats as they were given the feast spread by the residents with parental care.

It is the practice of the neigh-bourhood unit residents to respect ex-soldiers and people of merit who have rendered distin-guished service to the country and people.

Whenever their birthdays come round, the residents pre-pare special dishes for them and sing songs of congratulations. On holidays, the residents go to the-atres or other place with them for entertainment and relax-ation.

When happy events take place in their families, all the residents visit them to share the pleasure with them.

They regard it as a matter of

They are discussing how to build up their neighbourhood unit better.

National Immunization Day

The 5th National Immuniza-tion Day (NID) (October 20) has been observed in Korea.

Various immunization pro-jects are under way in Korea in collaboration with the World Health Organization.

In recent years, Korea has channelled its efforts into pre-venting infantile paralysis, with this day as a focus for the cam-paign.

Children under the age of five in all cities and rural communi-ties were inoculated against infantile paralysis.

Inoculation is done at the same time nationwide twice, on October 20 and November 20, with vitamin A administered simultaneously on the latter day.

For the successful imple-mentation of the programme, more than 10,000 infant paral-ysis preventive inoculation groups are organized across the country, involving nearly 50,000 medical workers every year.

Senior officials join the groups to give help and advice. Meanwhile, mothers with children under the age of five are given paid leave.

For several months leading up to the day, campaigning mes-sages are broadcast on televi-sion, posters distributed and medical workers go into residen-tial areas to give a general understanding of the inocula-tion work and to enlist people in the campaign.

On the day of inoculation, rele-vant units in Pyongyang, the provinces, cities and counties hold opening ceremonies of the NID under the sponsorship of the national immunization committee, and short courses are held for the specialists.

As a result, children under five with infantile disease are rarely found in Korea.

On the strength of the success of the NID, Korea will continue to hold such days in order to pre-vent various child diseases.

Preventive medical care is given to children.

course to share the moments of sorrow or to offer help to the sick.

When there had been a death at apartment No. 1 on the second floor, the head of all the neighbouring families spent several nights paying their respects and donated money for the funeral service.

They called at the door of No. 1 on the first floor to nurse its sick occupant, bringing with them medicine and tonics.

These supportive neighbours, who sincerely devote themselves to others, have now formed one huge harmonious family.

Boxing and the Homeland

The "Song of the Coast Artillery" was a shot in the arm for Hong, Chang Su in the ring.

The news that Hong Chang Su had won a world pro-boxing title swept the country like a prairie fire. He soon became a household name. One of his maternal uncles, Kwon Ho Jong, in Hamhung said to his friends proudly, "He is my nephew," but none would believe him, for Hong was too great to be his nephew.

Hong, 27, is an overseas citi- zen of the DPRK. Though he was born and grew up in Japan, he received a Korean education from childhood. After Tokyo Korean primary school No.6 he went on to Tokyo Korean Middle and High School and began to learn to box as a member of the school's sports club.

One day his coach asked him the reason why he had committed himself to boxing. Hong's answer was "I hope I will do something worthwhile for the homeland."

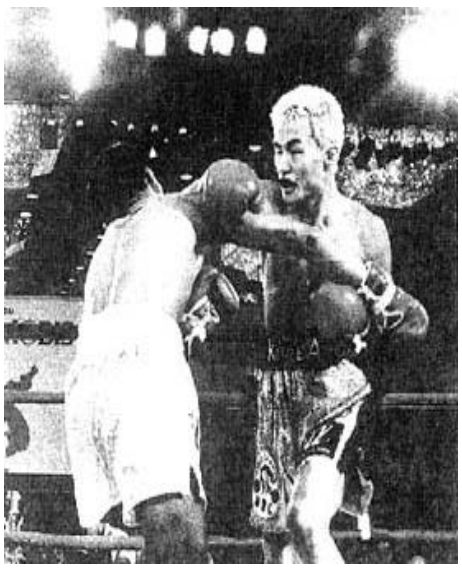
After graduation from high school, Hong entered pro-boxing in Osaka. He first distinguished him- self in the boxing world by becom- ing Japanese title-holder in 1996. Victory in the Asia-Pacific title fight in 1999 brought further fame. In August 2000 Hong snatched the WBC super-flyweight title and defended it successfully in December last year and in May and September this year.

Hong is known as an unusual boxer. He always enters the ring accompanied by the sound of the "Song of the Coast Artillery", a still-popular song from the Kore- an war.

In August last year, when he first fought for the WBC title at the Osaka Prefecture Sports Hall, Hong put on boxing shorts inscribed with the words "Korea Is One" and went into the ring with his favourite song over- whelming the shouts and cheers of the crowd. The song may have been the source of the power Hong displayed in defeating the south Korean champion Jo In Ju 3:0 by a unanimous decision. When the new champion was declared and the spectators were cheering enthusiastically, he was flying the DPRK flag and a "reunification flag" showing a Korean map on a white back- ground. It was the moment he had waited for, and his happiness knew no bounds.

Come On, Hong!

Hong works as head of the



Hong Chang Su retains the WBC title.

Taisei group, Hikashinari chap-ter, at the Osaka headquarters of the Korean Youth League in Japan. After his historic victory he had a hectic schedule, some-times attending gatherings of his compatriots in Japan, such as the one of young Korean business-men and the sports meeting of Japan-resident Korean students.

Shortly before he was due to defend his title against a Japanese challenger, he was not in top shape; he had a sore hand and back, so he sought medical treatment and moved to another lodging place in a bid to create a better pre-fight environment. But his spirit was dauntless, leading him to another unanimous victo-ry. After the bout he said, "This was the fight in which I beat my own weakness."

Hong has iron fists which do the talking for a simple and mod-est character. Whenever he was asked about the secret behind his victory after fights he used to say, "It's thanks to the cheers of my compatriots."

His spirit, technique and sportsmanship enable him to down opponents, of course. But the support of his compatriots is no less important to his success. Four thousand Koreans went to back him at the Osaka Prefecture Sports Hall. For his second defence, in a special ring at the Sheraton Hotel, Seoul, 229 Kore-ans in Japan travelled as a sup-porting group. It was said to be the first Chongryon group to visit south Korea since the division of the nation by the US. The Hong fans in green caps shouted pas-sionately. Hong controlled the fight patiently and confidently, meeting the expectations of his compatriots. Finally, in the 45th second of the fifth round, he knocked down the challenger, who could not get up even after the referee had counted to ten.

Hong Chang Su meets local sportsmen during his stay in Pyongyang.

When the fight was over, Hong, together with his support-ers and south Korean compatri-ots, sang the song "Our Wish Is Reunification".

Hong Chang Su meets local sportsmen during his stay in Pyongyang.

Hong's relatives live separat-ed in the north, south and over-seas. Taking advantage of the location of the defence of his title, he later met some of his relatives in the south. They asked him earnestly to fight for the coun-try's reunification and the nation's honour.

Like a Korean Tiger

Hong's winning of the WBC championship was soon crowned with the awarding of the title of DPRK People's Athlete. Inspired by the honour he successfully defended the belt twice. Mass media in the country devoted much time and space to his achievements, encouraging many young people to choose the career of boxing.

In June Hong, his parents and his fiancee visited Pyong-yang. His uncle hurried to the capital as well and said to Hong, "You are a pride not only to us, but to all the nation."

Everywhere they went, people raised cheers of welcome, asking for his signature or handshakes and handing him souvenirs.

The country awarded him the title of Labour Hero, the highest possible honour for a DPRK citi-zen, and the president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly met and congratulated him heartily.

While touring many places in the homeland, he met other box-ers, too. One frequent topic of conversation was the colour of his hair. Some commented that the mixture of blonde and black hair gives the impression of a Korean tiger,

He gave succinct answers to questions like "What thoughts do you have as you enter the ring?", "What is the secret behind your success?" and "Why do you have the 'Song of the Coast Artillery' played at fights?" His remarks that "Boxing is my favourite, but the homeland represents my whole life" and that "Winning is the result of love for your country and nation" left a lingering mem-ory.

People's Athlete Choe Chol Su from the Amnokgang Club-who was once a pro-boxer himself—wished him good luck, saying, "I hope you will retain your championship and maintain the prestige of the country."

Hong Chang Su appealed to them to try hard to have the national flag raised around the world. Thunderous applause ensued.

Kirn Ryong

The Woman Who Discovered a Land of Harmony

Not long ago I visited a Japanese woman, Ho Ok So, at her flat in Okryu-dong No. 3, Taedonggang District, Pyong-yang. Her native name is Muragami Tamao.

In the first room I entered I found all Ho's sons, daughters-in-law and grandsons and grand-daughters engaged in cheerful conversation. I immediately felt that this was a harmonious fami-ly.

"Through my own experience I keenly feel that this socialist system in which I live is a benev-olent one," Ho said, before telling me about how her family came to live in harmony under the care of the Republic.

Ho, born the second daughter of an ordinary family in the city of Morioga, Iwadae Prefecture, Japan, had met and later mar-ried a young Korean, Mun Hong Ju. Twenty years ago, in Septem-ber Juche 70 (1981), she followed her husband as he returned to his native land.

At that time, however, she was very confused due to the attempts of her relatives and close friends to dissuade her from going and her own doubt that the DPRK, where her predecessors had committed infamous crimes, would welcome her, a descendant of the criminals.

She found her worries unfounded the moment she set foot on the soil of the Republic. The socialist country warmly wel-comed her and her family. They were allocated a modern, fully-furnished flat in Pyongyang, and her husband was appointed to a post he desired.

Furthermore, their neighbours unreservedly frequented her flat, taking care of every slightest inconvenience. They taught her the Korean language and customs and also how to cook Korean dishes as though they were members of her own family.

Ho's children were given free education without discrimination even receiving scholarships dur-ing their university days.

Her eldest son now works at the high-speed textile equipment research institute of the branch academy of light-industry sci-ence, while her second son works at the Aeguk Compound Microor-ganism Centre.

The two daughters-in-law, both university graduates, are an actress and an engineer respec-tively.

Her eldest son, Mun Yong Chol, said, "The state's benefits did not stop there. Several years ago, the state, reading my mother's innermost wish, enabled her to visit her native place as a member of the second home-visit-ing group of Japanese women in Korea."

Listening to her words, Ho said, her relatives and old friends in Japan enviously admired Korea as a wonderland because the state takes responsible care of all its people and said that only by her animated look could they know how good is the socialist system of the Republic under which she lives.

"My experience shows that this infinitely wide embrace of the Republic is a true nest in which all of us can entrust our destinies and future. The Kore-ans are happy because they live as one large family in this embrace," Ho concluded.

Her words were not decorat-ed, yet they left a deep impres-sion on me.

I left her flat, my heart over-whelmed with pride in the social-ist system which is our life and blood.

Song Hak Jun

Ho's family members on an outing to Munsu Amusement Park

The April 25 Film Studio of the Korean People's Army has recently released the feature film "Military Life", which is representative of the ideological world of the KPA soldiers.

The ideological essence of the film is that a person, though in service uniform, cannot be said to become a true serviceman unless he or she is ready to become a human bullet or bomb to guard the leader at the risk of his or her life.

The film shows this truth through the representation of a serviceman's family.

Yun Kyong Sim, the heroine of the film, is the youngest child and only daughter of her family. After graduating from Pyongyang University of Medicine with top honours, Yun makes up her mind to join the KPA, following in the footsteps of her father and brothers, both KPA officers. She begins work as a surgeon at a military hospital.

One day she happens to meet Cha Ok, her third brother Yun Sok's love, who is a teacher of calisthenics at Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace. Cha Ok tells Kyong Sim of her unhappiness at having had no contact from Yun Sok for several years.

Kyong Sim goes directly to her father and asks him to recall her brother from his post at the front.

Her father Sung Pom admonishes his daughter, saying that military service is not a choice of life for oneself, but a life of service to the homeland, and that a man, though in service uniform, cannot be said to become a true serviceman.

Her father's criticism gives Kyong Sim a great shock, and she later volunteers to work as a surgeon at a frontal division surgery.

It proves to be a difficult job for the girl who grew up as a spoiled child and graduated from university with no troubles.

In the early days, she cannot understand her brother Yun Sok, who is mutely engaged in military service as a company political commissar without seeking fame or higher rank, nor the strict division staff officer in charge of combat training, who is exact in his demands of the soldiers.

In the middle of a forced march drill, she takes wounded soldiers to a school in a village without permission from above and takes care of them there. Moved to sympathy, she even proposes sending a young soldier back to a field hospital.

She suffers a succession of doubts and confusion during these difficult days.

One day the corps political commissar tells her about how devoted her brother was, and is, in his military life without wishing anybody to know it.

She then bitterly regrets her previous ignorance of how valuable a serviceman's devotion is.

At this juncture the staff officer sacrifices himself to save the life of a young soldier in an accident during a parachuting drill.

Informed of the incident, leader Kim Jong Il speaks highly of the officer's self-sacrifice as a heroic deed.

Witnessing the last moments of the staff officer, who remains faithful to his duty as a serviceman to the end, Kyong Sim realizes in her heart the attitude a true serviceman should have in military life.

The film features a lot of memorable scenes.

Most impressive is the one in which the last farewell is bid to the dead staff officer.

Unlike similar scenes in other films, where condolatory addresses are given, it shows the officer's daughter reciting a poem, "Father", which reads:

I want to sing of my father,
With warmer affection than
any song of mothers in the
world. But I can find no words
Good enough to sing of my
father, Who, in service uniform,
has rarely been at home To the
end of his life, Without
gratifying my simple wish
To enjoy a stroll with him on
the holiday streets.

After their father dies the children go to revolutionary school.

The night when I fell asleep With my school record card by my head, After waiting for his return, I would miss the praise I could
hardly hear, Rather than my mother's I
always heard.
I wonder why he readily left home The night before New Year's
Day To go to the snow-covered drill
ground,
Where I know there is nothing as warm as home.
I just want to sing of these fathers With warmer affection than any song of mothers in the
world.
The song of father.

This poem brings out, in its own way, the characters' feeling of sorrow, and heightens the dra- matic atmosphere of the scene.

The closing scene of the film is also a memorable one, the fruit of the director's remarkable stand- ard of workmanship. It shows the staff officer's uniformed sons and daughter playing on the snow-covered grounds of the Mangy-ongdae Revolutionary School.

It is a moving, emotional scene, accompanied only by music.

The falling snowflakes resting on the shoulders of the schoolchil-dren represent confetti blessing the future of the children who will continue to support the high pri- ority army policy.

The actors' truthful depiction of military life is another notable feature of the film.

Yun Su Gyong's portrayal of the heroine is particularly impres- sive. She presents in her own unique, vivid way the personality of a dignified woman officer of pro- gressive spirit and generosity.

The characterizations of Yun Sok, the staff officer and the corps political commissar are done with great skill and originality.

The screenplay was written by Ri In Chol and the film directed by Merited Artist Hong Kwang Sun.

"Military Life" caused a sensa- tion in Korea because of its accu- rate reflection of the require- ments of the age of the army-centred policy.

Wonsan University of Fisheries

Wonsan University of Fisheries, situated in Wonsan city, the seat of Kangwon Province, trains experts for the vitally important fishing industry.

The university was established on September 1, Juche 48 (1959), based on the fishery science faculty of Won- san University of Agriculture. It has been developed with the aim of raising the relevant technology and skills to a higher level, in line with the present and future requirements of the fish- eries industry. The university with six-year course consists of three main fac- ulties, namely fishery science, fish cul- ture, and mechanical engineering. The intention is to produce experts in the building of fishing boats, fishery, marine products processing, fish cul- ture and the mechanization and automation of all related industries. It also runs a correspondence course for incumbent officials in the sector, as well as a research institute. There are dozens of departments, research rooms and fully-equipped laboratories and practice facilities, along with several practice boats, including the 1,000 hp "Namsan".

The fishery science faculty gives lessons on fishing activities, fish pro- cessing, navigation and submarine detection. The fish culture faculty teaches fishery management and the exploration and protection of marine resources, while the mechanical engi- neering faculty focusses on the related machinery and engines and the build- ing of fishing boats.

Great effort is now being directed towards teaching the methods of posi- tively preserving and replenishing marine resources. Special emphasis is put on helping the students master sewage purification, control of fishing implements, fish farm development, establishing nature reserves and restricting fishing operations in those reserves during the spawning period.

The university has created vari- ous facilities that allow the students to gain practical experience, and is further increasing the time allocated to this area, enabling the graduates of the university to use what they have learned in their jobs.

Recently, education in fish breed- ing has been intensified by making use of practice ponds. Priority is given to instruction in solving the scientific and technological problems arising in breeding catfish at high levels of productivity. The fry pro- duced at the university are sent to many fish farms and the experience and technical knowledge gained are benefitting fish farms across the country.

The university is famous for its many research achievements as well as its educational activities. Its teach- ing staff consists of over 100 aca- demic degrees holders, including more than 20 professors and doctors. They have made hundreds of scien- tific and technological innovations, including the areas of fishing opera- tion, artifical, rapid propagation of fish, scientific fish breeding, and the manufacture of efficacious medicines using processed fish and sea herbs, helping to develop the science and technology of the nation.

The tinless bearing alloy developed by Choe long Su, Merited Scientist and associate professor of the university, won diplomas and bronze medals at the 16th Geneva International Inventions Salon held in April Juche 77 (1988), and at the Beijing International Inven- tions Exhibition held in October Juche 81(1992).

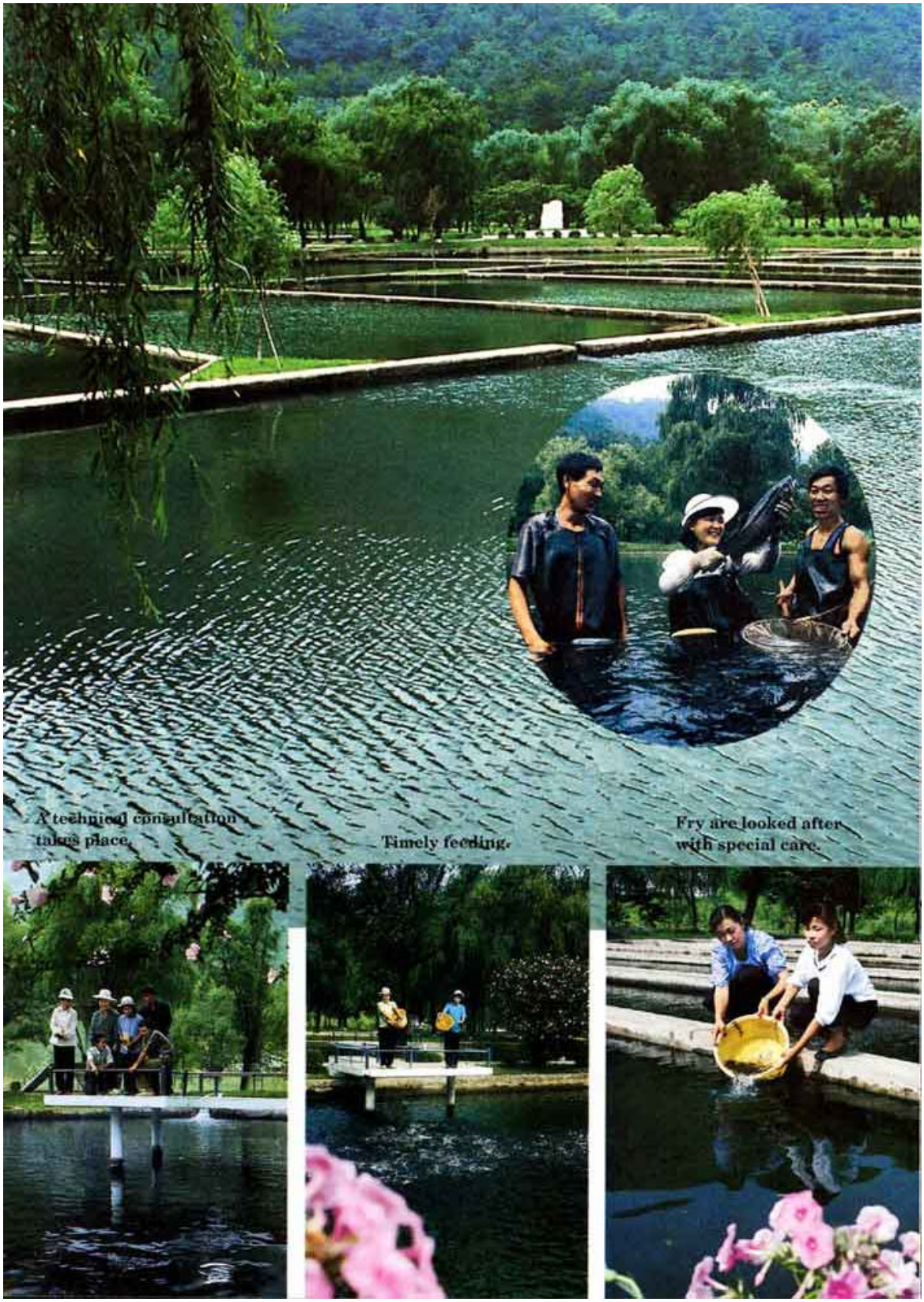
The university teachers refer to these research achievements in writ- ing a number of textbooks and refer- ence books and continuously refresh the books with up-to-date content concerning new science and technol- ogy. The research discoveries are also intensively used in teaching.

The state always shows great concern for the affairs of the univer- sity in order to maximise its role. as an important centre for developing the fishing industry of the country, which is surrounded by the sea on three sides.

The university is working harder than ever to carry out its mission to produce experts for Korea's fisheries industry.

Pae Myong Chol

The university is a center fro training technical personnel for the fishing industry. The teaching staff have steadily improved educational standards and, together with the students, have made many scientific and technological inventions and innovations which have contributed to development of the nation's fishing industry.



A technical consultation takes place.

Timely feeding.

Fry are looked after with special care.

The Ideal Place for Fish Farming

Spring water gushing out of a ravine of the Turyu mountain range all the year round provides favourable con-ditions for breeding rainbow trout. This stream feeds Ryongdam Fish Farm.

The water temperature does not rise above 16°C in summer, nor does it drop below 10°C in winter. Over 0.5 ton of water flows out per second.

More than 40 years ago a fish farm covering an area of 2.7 hectares was laid out, taking advantage of this water source. The fish farm was named after the village of Ryongdam-ri, its name mean-ing a pond from where a dragon had soared high into the air from time immemorial.

In its early days it was no more than a small breeding workteam belonging to a cooperative farm. But it has now turned into a fully-fledged fish farm, occupying an area of over 10 hectares.

Dozens of fishponds spread far along a narrow steep-sided valley, resembling a Korean checker board. They are surrounded on all sides by weeping willows and fruit trees.

The beautiful mountain village reminds one of a fine picture. Every pond is teeming with rainbow trout of all sizes, from fry to mother fish as big as a forearm.

Chief engineer Kim Song Mu, who has been engaged in rainbow trout breeding here for over 30 years, is now a leading figure in this field.

He said, "Rainbow trout spit their feed out if it contains no fish-meal. And if we throw feed to them, they eat it quickly before it sinks under water by sending it back up with their wag-ging tails. They even change the colour of their bodies in keeping with the colour of water. They are clever."

According to Kim, the fish farm annually produces over 200 tons of rainbow trout.

Ponds for fattening fish number more than 20.

Rainbow trout spawn at the begin-ning of December every year and the number of eggs per trout totals 6,000 to 10,000.

In the spawning season, a lot of effort is put into properly controlling the water temperature and providing good feed conditions in order to increase the spawning rate.

Scientific nutrition administration and breeding methods enable the fry to grow quickly in the various ponds, including those for breeding fry and mother fish and for fattening.

All the breeders at the farm have either already completed or are cur-rently enrolled in the correspondence course at the Wonsan University of Fisheries.

The combination of practical expe-rience and theory provides a stepping-stone in raising their skill level.

The question of how to obtain feed is of critical importance for successful fish farming.

The farm is making constant efforts to provide the most rational conditions for feeding fish, while building up feed bases by its own efforts.

Of particular note is the fact that it is obtaining feed containing albumin by natural methods.

One of the ways it does this is by using a luring lamp in every fishpond.

When the sun sets and night begins to fall, the luring lamps are lit all at once at the fish farm.

Drawn by the lights, various kinds of insects gather and fall onto the surface of the water. These insects provide good albuminous feed for rainbow trout.

In addition to rainbow trout, a variety of freshwater fish. such as carp and crucian carp are being farmed.

Rainbow trout, fond of cold water, are growing in the upper part of the fishpond where the springs flow and the carp, crucian carp and other species are growing in the lower part, where the water becomes warmer as it goes downwards.

On April 19 this year, leader Kim Jong Il visited this fish farm. Sur-veying the ponds teeming with rain-bow trout and the newly-built fish-ponds he was delighted. He expressed great satisfaction at the fact that the farm had changed beyond recognition.

Breeding pools here are now being rebuilt on a far larger scale. Land once thick with reeds is currently being turned into further breeding areas.

When these facilities are complet-ed, the farm will become more beauti-ful in its appearance.

Goat-Farming Brings Benefits to Province

In response to the polic y of the Workers' Party of Korea to use the country's pastureland to produce more meat, the South Hamgyong Provincial people have increased the number of goats in the province to hundreds of thousands in recent years.

During this period, the pro-vince opened up tens of thou-sands of hectares of natural grassland and created several thousand hectares of planted grassland, while building goat pens, houses, dormitories, stor-age facilities, and feed-process-ing rooms.

The motto of the people is "Live not merely for today, but for tomorrow!", which encour-aged them in their struggle to lay a road to the grazing land, and even to build minor power stations m all the valleys now being farmed.

Goat farming benefits many cities, counties, units and fami-lies in the province.

Milk and meat are already being produced from Hochon, Pukchong, Toksong and Jong-phyong counties to supply nurs-eries, kindergartens and resi-dents.

From last year, processed milk products have also been supplied to the city and rural population.

My Wife

MEN OF STRONG FAITH

I am 74. I have many things to say about my vicissitude-marked life, but here I would like to talk about my wife, Won Sun Hwa.

As a child, I badly missed the warm care of a mother. Living with my seven younger brothers and sisters of roughly the same size, I had to work hard from morning

My Wife till late at night. I took care of them in what time I had after the day's work, and at night made straw ropes. Needless to say, I always envied the children of other families.

One day, during the year of my 18th birthday, my youngest uncle, three years senior to me, said, "You see, Sang Jun, you are no longer a child. You should not confine yourself to the home. Open your eyes to the world out- side."

With his assistance, I gradu- ally came to take an interest in what was going on in the society around me. I was able to distin- guish justice from injustice, with the result that I went so far as to become a member of a group fighting against the US aggressors.

As soon as the US imperial- ists unleashed the Korean war on June 25, 1950, I, together with my uncle, took a rifle and fought the enemy, as members of the Jirisan Guerrillas.

It was in the mid-1950s that I was arrested by the enemy owing to an informer's secret informa- tion. I spent 36 years behind bars. Only when I was past 60 did I leave the prison as an "unmarried grandfather".

Concerned about the prospect of me living alone in poverty, my younger sisters advised me to marry on many occasions. Each time I refused to accept their sug- gestion because I thought that marriage would serve no purpose to me, an old man who had spent

Though I Am Not a Poet

Thrown into a dark cell on account of my refusal to recant, I was handcuffed before and behind And subjected to water, electrie and other torture. Sounds of clubbing and moaning are heard on end. Comrade, don't change your mind, We are sure to win. Silent night, silent sky, silent moment I lie down quietly in the silent prison cell, But indignation surges and my heart burns As if to melt away the hand cuffs and iron bars. Young man in the cell, where is your native place? It is there over the wall and over the darkness, A land far away under the northern sky A peaceful land under the bright lodestar A land of benevolence ruled by the people. As we have the great leader, We are sure to win.

I had never studied literature, and I never considered myself a poet. Nevertheless, I was a "prison poet" and wrote the poem "Song in a Prison Cell".

The long years of suffering from national division had left me in oblivion, but I wanted my clean and proud soul to be embraced by the motherland though my body might be a hand- ful of earth. This was my inten- tion when I wrote the poem.

most of his manhood in prison on the road to justice.

Taken into the embrace of the Republic last year, however, I came to take a wife, who is now taking sincere care of me. Sens-ing my loneliness from having no children, she brought in folk implements used for games or amusement, and new cassettes. She strives to prepare dishes pleasing to my tastes. There's always a pleasant smile on her face, and her silvery voice makes me happy.

Indeed, she is not only my wife, but also like a mother, elder sister and younger sister to me, an old man who had never known warm female care until he was past 70.

Now I feel I am back in my twenties.

Song Sang Jun former unconverted long-term prisoner

Whenever I recited it, the beauti-ful memories and hope for the future recharged my heart with love for the country.

I, who used to remember the poem in the dark cell, am now singing songs of happiness back in the north of Korea, my mater-nal land. All the rooms in my apartment, all things small and large about me are associated with the kind-hearted care of the motherland.

The better the care given to me, the more I resolved to tell of my life through poetry, although I am not talented. I am engrossed in poetic creation. My new work "Song of Life" is near completion.

Ryu Un Hyong former unconverted long-term prisoner

To Be Loyal to My Country

I am already near the shady side of eighty.

I am proud to say that I remained faithful to my home-land during the 34 years of my youth I spent in prison.

I was born in Posong County, South Jolla Province, and it was there that I greeted the liberation (August 1945) of the country. I can still vividly remember the looks of my fellow villagers, who were overwhelmed with joy at the event.

But the joy lasted only for a while. The US occupied the south of Korea, continuing the oppres-sion and exploitation of us Kore-ans, following in the footsteps of the Japanese. Those who had been pro-Japanese turned into pro-Americans and exploited the peasants.

At the same time, the north of Korea witnessed a historic event. Land was confiscated from the pro-Japanese and distributed to the peasants free of charge.

The news inspired the vil-lagers and me to wage a struggle to take the land away from the landlords. Our endeavour was, however, frustrated by the repression of the US troops occu-pying south Korea, which result-ed in the loss of my only younger brother. In desperation, my head span with the desire to go to Pyongyang. So, like others who loved the nation did, I went to the north, where I realized what true life meant and where man's gen-uine happiness came from.

For the first time, I saw a society in which all the people,

not just the upper class or stra-tum, were equally well off; indus-trial workers and farm workers worked hard as masters of their own factories and land, and soci-ety protected their rights in accordance with the law.

In Pyongyang I not only worked, but also went to school. I came to realize that all the Koreans would be able to enjoy happi-ness if they followed the way indi-cated by President Kim Il Sung.

Later I took part in the sacred struggle to reunify the country, before being imprisoned for 34 years in south Korea.

What then enabled me to remain true to my faith in such an abominable, nightmarish situ-ation?

It was simply because I always missed my homeland, the DPRK, even in a 2.5 square-metres windowless cell. How could I betray my homeland which had made me aware of the true worth of life? I also never forgot it while enduring the miserable days under the sky of the south after being released from the prison.

It then invited the return of me, no, all the 63 unconverted long-term prisoners to Pyong-yang. I wept with joy, and I could not help but continue to weep after arriving in Pyongyang.

The motherland awarded me the National Reunification Prize, honouring my political integrity. It also allocated a modern house to me, enabling me to enjoy a harmo-nious family life, and took all mea-sures necessary to provide me with comfortable living conditions, allowing me to spend the rest of my life in good health and happiness.

My wife and I took a pledge to dedicate the rest of our days to the good of my motherland which brought me back to life.

Kirn Yong Gyu former unconverted long-term prisoner

The Beautiful Land of 3,000-ri

I recently had the opportunity to visit the north-south joint photo show held to mark the first anniversary of the publication of the North-South Joint Declara-tion.

The moment I entered the exhibition with the other visitors, we all exclaimed our admiration.

The walls of the wide hall were filled with large landscapes, as if all the celebrated mountains of Korea had actually assembled together.

The guide started his expla-nation: photographers of the north and south have arranged this exhibition out of their desire to raise and bring into full bloom the precious seed of reunification, the North-South Joint Declara-tion that paved the way to the end of national division—to reuni-fication. You will see all the cele-brated mountains of this land, from Mt. Paektu in the north to Mt. Halla in the south. Let's go and see them together.

I looked round the exhibits,listening to the guide's explana-tion. It seemed to me as if I really did stand before beautiful moun-tain peaks, deep valleys and refreshing waterfalls.

Magnificent Mt. Paektu in four seasons; Mt. Myohyang, boasting of its ten thousand scenes with the International Friendship Exhibition at its heart; the reflection of the blue sky at Lake Paekrok on Mt. Halla; the boat rock of Mt. Chilbo; Panya Peak of Mt. Jiri, glowing red in milkywhite fog; Jipson Peak of Mt. Kumgang, flaunting its beauty with red maple-leaves; Insu Peak and Paekundae, enchanting people with their dazzling white rocks;

the Thowangsong Falls of Mt. Solak coming down its many steps through a long valley.

Struck with admiration, a vis-itor said, "Ours really is a beauti-ful land of 3,000-ri".

From long ago, our country has been called a "land of purple hills and crystal streams" or a

"land of golden tapestry." The famous mountains contain pre-cious cultural assets left by our ancestors, tell of their brave patriotic struggle against foreign invaders to defend their beautiful land, and have many wonderful legends, giving great pride to Koreans, born in this land.

But this land, where our ancestors' bones are buried and our people had lived happily from generation to generation, is divid-ed. They have suffered from national division imposed by for-eign forces for over 50 years.

Mt. Paektu does not belong only to the north, nor Mt. Halla only to the south.

We must reunify this land as soon as possible, so we can freely and proudly visit the peaks of Mts. Paektu and Halla and the valleys of Mts. Kumgang and Solak that retain the trace of our ancestors and display our nation-al spirit.

The guide concluded, "Today we climb these mountains with our minds, but before long we will be able to go to see them our-selves".

All Koreans must be allowed to freely travel this lovely land of 3,000-ri—the north and the south.

This is our land, where we were born and enjoyed its beauti-ful landscapes, breathed its air and drank its water. Every blade of grass and every tree is beauti-ful and dear to us, and we feel the national breath in every white cloud floating over it and the wind blowing through it.

This beautiful land is our ancestral home, and it must not remain divided any longer.

Kim Il Sin

The north-south joint photo show is held, arousing great public interest.

The Juche Idea and Human Rights

The human rights problem has been historically under heated debate. It is one of the most important focal matters on the world political arena especially because the imperialists are now conducting a human rights offensive viciously according to their human rights standard. It seriously affects even the relations between countries. The clarification of the most scientific and universal view and standard of human rights is therefore very important for the correct solution of the human rights problem and for foiling the reactionary human rights offensive of the imperialists.

Let us consider the view of human rights clari- fied by the Juche idea fathered by President Kim Il Sung.

Human rights clarified by the Juche idea are essentially the rights of social human beings to independence.

This view of human rights, based on indepen- dence, the most important attribute of people as social beings, defines human rights as the rights to defend and win human independence.

The basis of human rights is an important mat- ter showing the scientific precision and progressive-ness of the view and standard of human rights.

Independence is the fundamental attribute of social human beings to live and develop indepen- dently free from all fetters as masters of their fate and the world.

Independence is vital to man.

Without independence man can neither live a life worthy of a human being nor dominate the world.

Man becomes independent mainly through the exercise of the rights to independence.

Human rights are rights to independence and so they are not the rights which some have and others have not and which some have more and others less. They are universal and equal rights which people have evenly in living a life worthy of a human being with dignity as social beings.

But the imperialists and bourgeois advocates of human rights say that human rights are not the rights to meet human demand for independence but the rights to satisfy instinctive desires.

This comes from their wrong view of man not as a social being whose fundamental attribute is independence but as a mere material being or biological being.

As man is a social being he has human rights in social relations.

Accordingly it is neither the exercise of genuine human rights nor the exercise of equal rights for individuals to pursue their anarchistic freedom arid animal lusts and for the moneyed to play with or violate the character and dignity of the poor with money.

The view of human life disregarding man's inde- pendent attribute in dealing with human rights and advocating the animal way of life among people is an unscientific and one-sided view and standard of human rights.

The Juche view of human rights, which defines human rights as human rights to indepen- dence, stipulates man's rights to his three lives — political, material-economic and ideo-cultural - as the main components and contents of human rights.

Man is the master of the world and he must exercise genuine rights as the master of nature, society and himself. Therefore, when he exercises the rights to independence in political, material-eco- nomic and ideo-cultural lives we can say that he exercises genuine human rights.

Man is a social being and he has both physical life and socio-political life.

The right to material-economic life is the right for physical life; the right to political, ideo-cultural life is the right for socio-political life. So the genuine view of human rights must guarantee genuine rights in all areas of human social life.

The Tale of Two Families

Once upon a time there lived the Paks and the Choes in a village.

Pak's was a large family, but they were very poor because they had not much land. Nevertheless, the family was always harmonious, envied by all the villagers.

Choe's family was in sharp contrast to Pak's. It was not so poor a family, for it was small and had a considerable amount of land.

Not a day passed, however, without argument in the family, and Choe was at a loss to know what to do.

One day, after deep consideration, Choe visited Pak's home, which he had heard was the most harmonious in the village.

Just as he entered the house he heard shouting coming from outside, "Hey, our ox is damaging the millet patch of the other family. Its rein has been loosened." It was Pak's son. "I've never known such a thing to happen!" With this, Pak rushed out, followed by the other members of the family who were at home.

Seeing his son bringing the ox, Pak said, "It's my fault. I failed to tie the rein tightly as I took the ox to the grass field in the morning."

His wife quickly responded, "No, you're not to blame. If I gave enough forage to it, such a thing would not have happened."

His son reproached himself. "Mother, I am to blame. At noon I ought to have moved the ox to the gorge behind the house. There is plenty of grass there," he said, before drawing the ox away to the gorge.

At that moment, returning with a basket filled with washing on her head from the stream by the house, the son's young wife politely apologized to her parents-in-law, saying, "I'm also to blame for the incident because I failed to notice the ox being freed while I was doing the washing."

Mr. Choe was so impressed by this sight that he slapped his knee and thought, "Now I get it! All my family members cannot but quarrel with each other because each of them would think that he or she is right, and blame the other. Mine can never be compared with this good family, which is pervaded with the spirit of mutual concession, understanding and self-reproach."

Choe was delighted to know the secret of harmony.

"Thank you, Mr. Pak. Thanks a lot. I'll make my family follow the example of yours," Choe said, holding Pak's hand for a while.

But the Western advocates of human rights say that only cognitive and political rights are human rights in proper sense and the rights in economic and cultural spheres such as the rights to work, rest, medical treatment and education are not human rights. According to them, if the rights in the economic and cultural spheres are included in human rights the limit of human rights becomes indistinct philosophically and the idea of human rights is distorted politically.

The Juche view of human rights develops itself with focus on popular masses with the right view and attitude towards them.

The popular masses forming the sweeping majority of society are makers of history. They are decisive forces that transform nature and develop society. Everything in society is created by them and they must become masters of everything and enjoy all rights.

It is they who really demand human rights and must exercise them.

The Juche view of human rights gives a view of human rights that meets the aspirations and demands of the popular masses and shows the ways for the guarantee of human rights to gratify their desires.

But the imperialists' human rights are set for the privileged few, the rich people holding state power and wealth, and defend their interests. The imperialists are vociferating about the "equality of all people", "freedom" and "defence of human rights". But their human rights are not the rights of the popular masses but the privileges of the limited few.

As seen above, the view of human rights clarified by the Juche idea is based on a scientific analysis of human nature and life and develops itself centring on the popular masses. So it is the most progressive and universal view and standard of human rights.

Kim Il Sin

General Ulmil and Ulmil Pavilion

Ulmil Pavilion.

The Ulmil Pavilion is situated on Moran Hill in Pyongyang. It is one of the relics representing old pavilions in Korea. It was erected in the mid-Gth century as a northern commanding post of the keep when the Walled City of Pyongyang was under construc-tion, and was rebuilt in 1714.

The following legend concern-ing General Ulmil is woven around the name of this com-manding post.

General Ulmil was held in great affection and deep respect by the people, for he distin-guished himself in battles to defend Pyongyang from the for-eign aggressors' attacks with his superb martial arts, courage and strategy.

When he became old, he taught his son Na Rae and young people martial arts. When they got to some level, he saw to it that they practiced their mar-tial arts for three years and three months living deep in mountains.

Leaving his home, Na Rae asked his sweet-heart Ko Bi to take good care of his father.

Several years passed since they had set about prac-ticing martial arts in moun-tains. One day foreign aggres-sors attacked Pyongyang all of a sudden.

General Ulmil became old, so it was rather difficult for him to command the battles.

Ko Bi who was fighting beside the general, dressed in man's cos-tume, entreated him to bring back young men from the train-ing place, and each time the general replied, "We cannot aban-don the lofty idea to escape a momentary danger, can we?" And he drew his sword from the sheath and led the army troops to smash the enemy in heaps.

But one day he was seriously wounded in a battle.

The enemy spied out the fact that the general was hurt and began to attack the castle with might and main.

Informed of this in time, General Ulmil climbed up Moran Hill, clad in armour, and com-manded the decisive battles.

Fierce battles continued for several days. And he again received a fatal wound and lost his consciousness.

Ko Bi, without a moment's delay, rode to the place where Na Rae and young men were train-ing martial arts. No sooner had she arrived at the place than she told the news of Pyongyang and fainted.

Na Rae and other young men put on their armour and rode to Pyongyang.

When they arrived at the Walled City of Pyongyang, the general flag was fluttering at the general's commanding post.

Encouraged, they repulsed the enemy in a moment and climbed up Moran Hill, beating the drums of victory. But the general was lying dead at the commanding post.

An old man stepped forward toward the young men and said between sobs:

"General Ulmil passed away two days ago. But he left his last words to let him remain here standing at the post, unless the enemy is beaten off."

"Father!"

"General!"

Na Rae and young men cried out his name and pledged them-selves to remain faithful to the intention of the general.

The Pyongyang people set up a pavilion on the top of Moran Hill where there had been the commanding post of General Ulmil to immortalize his merits, and named it the "Ulmil Pavilion".

The Pattern of the Nation

Sipjangsaeng is a pattern of ten different features of nature representing the character of the Korean nation. The style origi-nated and found its expression in many aspects of life during the time of the Three States (the mid-3rd century BC ~ the mid-7th century AD). There are sto-ries about the fact that pines were painted vividly at tombs or temples in the period of Koguryo. There are also some anecdotes about patterns of bamboo, the sun, mountains, water, cloud, cranes and turtles. This original pattern with a long tradition is dedicated to the representation of the Korean people's aspirations.

The decorative patterns of natural scenery reflect the patri-otic spirit of the Korean people, who have ardently loved their beautiful land and struggled valiantly to defend it from out-side invaders. In retrospect, Korea had been incessantly invaded, but whenever the coun-try was in danger, the people had risen as one to repulse the aggressors and safeguard the national integrity.

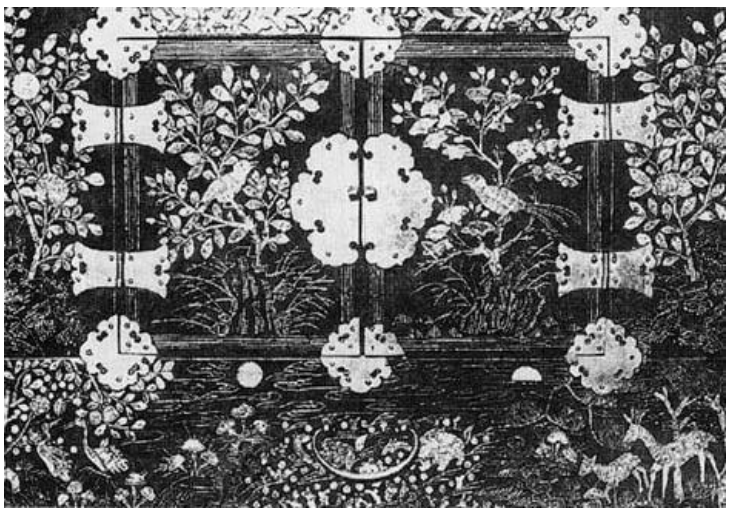
One of the ten things painted in the pattern is rock, symboliz-ing the willpower of the nation.

The resoluteness of the nation is also seen in the pine and bam-boo patterns of the Sipjangsaeng. Ancient records note that the evergreen pine was the symbol of the proud and straightforward national spirit. Descriptions of the bamboo in old records also indicate its association with the unbreakable national spirit.

The sun and water, which are inorganic, unlike many others among the ten components of the pattern, show Korea as a land of morning calm and depict the peo-ple's love of their beautiful land.

Sipjangsaeng has long been used not only by famous artists, but also by humble craftsmen in diversified shades. It used to be applied to household goods, clothes and even everyday items.

The favourite pattern of the nation has now been modernized to suit the current aesthetic tastes.

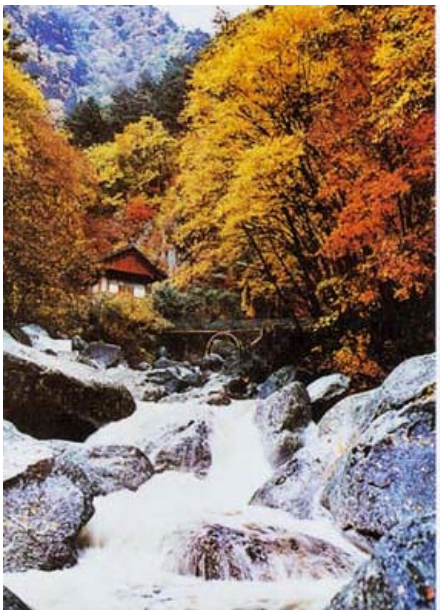


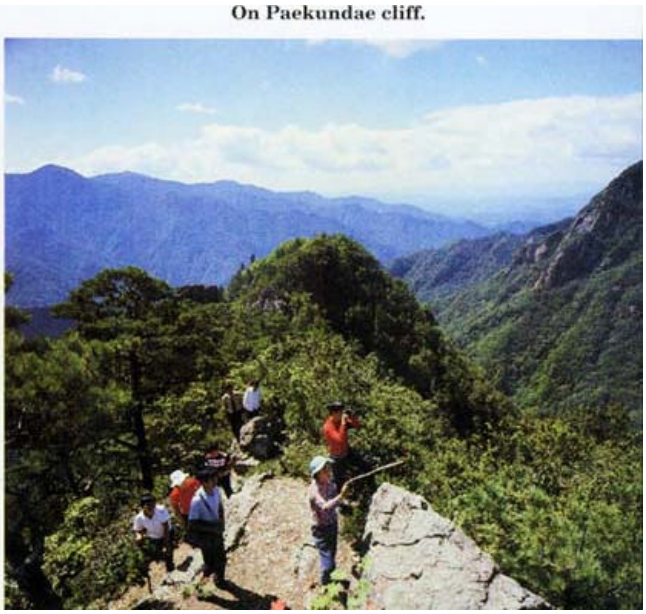
A sipjangsaeng-patterned wardrobe inlaid with mother-of-pearl.

Climbers survery Mt. Myohyang from Piro Peak.

Piro Peak is the highest point (1909m) on Mt. Myohyang, and the climb begins at the entrance to habiro Valley. The entrance lies 5.5 km from the Hyangsan Hotel at Piromun Resting Place. Skirted by a stream that flows from the mountain, there is also a deep pond here, and it's nice place to have a picnic. The route to Piro Peak leads you first

Habiro Hermitage.

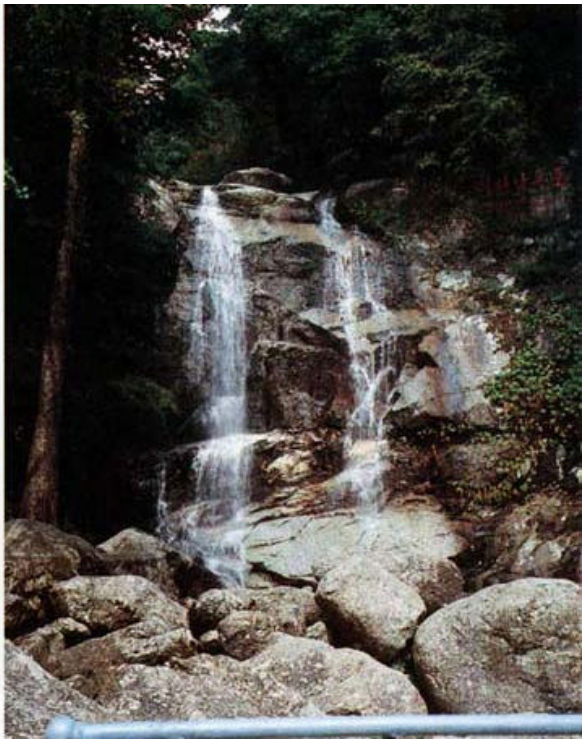




On Paekundae cliff.

An autumn view from Poryondae cliff.

The route to Habiro Valley.



Isonnam Falls.

To Chilsong Brige, which crosses a brook. Go up 300 metres more and you can see a camp for hikers. Just in front of the camp is Segil Bridge, and 400 metres further up from the bridge is the Habiro Hermitage. The building was first established before the 17th century, and rebuilt in 1882 without any special decoration. Around the hermitage lie subsidiary buildings like Poryon Hall, Sansin and Chilsong pavilions. They mysterious cliff in front of the hermitage is called Poryongdae.

The hermitage is the starting

Enjoying a panoramic view from Wonmang Peak.

point of the path to the peak, which .goes through Jungbiro, Paekundae and Wonmang Peak, spanning 6.5 km in all.
It is about 2 km from the hermitage to Jungbiro. Jungbiro stands : 1,200 m above sea level, and boasts a pavilion called Paekunjong. Here you lean also find a spring which flows all | the year round, and is hence called Sacholsaem. Its product is called "Chonsang Mineral Water as the | spring is located in a high place. It is I said that in old times people climbed .Jungbiro to have a gulp of Chonsang Mineral Water and ascended Paekundae to watch the movements of the couds.
Standing high in the forest, Paekundae is an advantageous point commanding a fine view of the range "of peaks. The name comes from the fact that it is wrapped in white cloud below the peak. Around this peak I you can study the natural environment and the fauna and flora of the highland area of the œuntry; the sight of golden and red leaves around :the cliffs is counted as one of the '"eight sights of Mt. Myohyang" because it is believed that the best of | the autumn landscape scenery is found there.
Go 2 km further up the mountain :and you reach the top of Wonmang iPeak. Rising 1,794 m above sea level, l:it is the third highest peak on Mt. I Myohyang. From the top you can enjoy a far-reaching view, and it is I from this feature the name "Won-imang" is derived. As you climb to the ttop you have to negotiate very steep slopes which are devoid of trees or grass, it is undoubtedly the most difficult section of the hiking route on the mountain, and it teaches the real meaning of mountaineering to climbers. The summit of the mountain is reached after a further climb of 2 km. Piro Peak is noted for the flowers that bloom in July and August, and the trees that grow in a crawling style. According to legend, these trees grow sideways so that they will not harm the clothes of the fairies descending from heaven.
Another feature is the rhododendron, which blooms in June. The peak also provides magnificent views of the mountains in this area of Korea, rewarding those who reach it after gruelling hike.

Gene-Recompounding Makes Growth Hormone

Scientists at the Cell and Gene Engineering Centre of the Academy of Sciences have succeeded in developing growth hormone by the gene-recom-pounding method, which is now recognized as the most advanced worldwide.
From the latter half of the 20th century, when biological engineering started to develop, the manufacture of human growth hormone was regarded as one of the most important projects in the field in many nations, but only a few nations succeeded.
The newly developed hormone is very high in purity.
Scientists examined its efficacy through clinical experiments and discovered it positively efficacious among children who are short in stature.
The research success is also applicable to the treatment of gastric ulcers, burns, and bone fractures.
The finds also include weaponry

Ruins of a Large-Sized Village Unearthed

Researchers at the Archeology Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences have carried out a comprehensive excavation and investigation of the ruins of a large-sized village from the period of Tangun's Korea in Namyang-ri, about 24 km away from Tokchon, South Phyongan Province.
More than 150 sites of houses were found distributed within the more than 100,000 square metre area of the ruins, including two house sites from the neolithic era and 31 from the period of Tangun's Korea.
They each revealed bases of pillars, foundation stones, and one or two stoves.
In addition, relics were discovered showing the level of cultural development of the people at that time.
A bronze pipha-shaped tip of a spear, a typical relic of the period of Tangun's Korea, was discovered at the site of the 16th house in the ruins.
A button-shaped bronze-ware and a bronze bell mould were also found. The former is still shining thousands of years after it was made such as a moon-shaped axe, a short sword, the tip of a spear, and an arrow-head as well as labour tools, including an axe, an adze, a plane blade, a chisel, a net sinker and the wheel of a spinning wheel. These give evidence of the sophistication of the stonework of that period.
The ruins also revealed dozens of tombs, including three dolmen tombs.

Love the Earth!

The earth, which has given its abundant natural resources to mankind, is now suffering from "malnutrition".

Rapid development of technol- ogy and environmental destruc- tion are destroying the ecosys- tem.

A typical example is the prob- lem of global warming. It is man himself who has brought about global warming. In the end, man is going to cut his own lifeline. The governing council of the UN Environmental Program has recently reported that frequent tropical typhoons, the loss of soil and the short supply of agricul- tural products and water, caused by the rise of sea level, are the "gifts" to humankind from global warming. It is said that these "gifts" are created by the emis- sion of carbon dioxide and green- house gases.

In 1997, the 3rd Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held in Japan. The developed nations adopted the Kyoto Protocol, which numer- ically defined targets for the reduction of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions, the main causes of global warming.

The protocol says that between 2008 and 2012, carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases should be reduced by 5.2 per cent from the 1990 level. The EU must reduce emissions by 8 per cent, the US by 7 per cent and Japan by 6 per cent.

The US, however, stands against this protocol. It makes three objections:

Frist, implementing the proto- col would mean a severe attack to its economy.

Second, the protocol is benefi- cial to developing nations, and is therefore unequal.

Third, the warming itself is scientifically unproven and its technical measurement unset- tled.

The US is in fact the world's top producer of emitted carbon dioxide, responsible for more than one quarter of the global total.

Per-capita emissions of carbon dioxide in the US are higher than in any other country, two times greater than Japan, Germany and Britain. Japan itself pro- duces double of the world aver- age.

In its report, a UN science committee warned that if global warming is overlooked, destruc- tive floods, famine and the spread of disease will take place in the near future. The report says that millions of acres of arable land will soon be turned into desert due to the change in climate. According to the report, some of the poorest nations will be most severely affected.

In the 1950s, the annual eco- nomic loss from environmental damage amounted to US $ 6 bil- lion, rising to US $ 40 billion in 1999, and it will continue to increase in future, the report noted.

The scientists say that the number of people suffering from the lack of fresh water now stands at 1.7 billion, one third of the world population.

A draft policy document on global warming says that 5 bil- lion of the world's people will live in countries which are short of fresh water by 2025.

According to the report of the governing council of the UNEP, by 2050, US $ 47 billion will need to be invested in water supply worldwide every year. US $ 1 billion will be required to protect houses and property from dam- age caused by the rising sea level.

The ecological loss will reach US$ 70 billion in 2050, it pre- dicts.

Mankind has a mountain of work to do. Colossal amounts of money need to be invested. Investment by one side is becom- ing nominal by the other.

As a Korean saying goes, all is lost that is put in a broken dish.

In a recent report, made pub- lic prior to the global ministerial environment forum of the UNEP, the governing council estimated that the world economic loss caused by frequent tropical typhoons, the loss of soil and the improper supply of agricultural products and water caused by the rise of sea levels will reach US $304.2 billion a year.

Nevertheless, the US admi- nistration takes issue with the Kyoto Protocol.

The attitude of the US has invited condemnation across the world.

Last April, nearly 40 environ- ment ministers and delegates met in New York for an informal meeting on climate change spon- sored by the UN. All the nations present at the meeting, with the exception of the US, strongly sup- ported the Kyoto Protocol.

Global warming is a great danger to humanity.

But, the US is playing havoc with the earth, pursuing only its own narrow economic interest.

We ask you, the US admi- nistration consisting of those soaked with selfish values:

Are you going to live only for today? What about tomorrow?

Love the earth!

Kim Il Bong

Japan's Crime to Murder Korean Language

Korea Today gives a brief summary of the DPRK Linguistic Society's article of July 4. p exposing the Japanese imperialists' attempts to murder the Korean language after their occu-| potion of Korea by force of arms nearly a century ago.

1.

The Japanese imperialists' acts to obliterate the Korean language were a state crime, committed by their government agencies according to their state laws.

The Japanese closely linked the murder of the Korean language with the obliteration of nationali-ty, as it is the main common denominator defining the Korean nation.

They forced Koreans to bow in the direction of their imperial palace in the east, visit their Shinto shrines and make their national oath every morn-ing. Koreans were expected to use the Japanese lan-guage, have their hair style and wear black clothes and wooden clogs like Japanese.

Japanese was formally declared as the official language used by government agencies, courts and other organs in the first days of their government-general rule, and also as the "national language" to be used by Koreans.

In November 1912 their Korean government-general established a system whereby provincial governors submitted their reports on short-term course in Japanese to the government-general and in March 1937 ordered all provincial governors in Korea to compile all official documents in Japanese at all government and public agencies.

In 1938, the government-general took the deci-sion to set up a large number of Japanese training schools. By the end of that year more than 3,600 training schools had appeared. In their attempts to murder the Korean language, the Japanese imperi-alists enacted many vicious laws.

In 1907, they enacted the Press Law to suppress the publication of many newspapers, followed by the Publication Law in 1909 and a set of publication rules in 1910 to intensify their repressive attempts to obliterate the national identity of the Korean peo-ple and their language.

On April 11, 1905, Japanese minister Hayashi proposed a "plan for the reform of education in Korea" to Japanese Foreign Minister Komura.

Later, on four occasions, the Japanese imperial-ists enacted and retrogressively revised the "law on education in Korea" to promote the murder of the Korean language.

In this context, Takahashi, former school inspec-tor of the Korean government-general, said, "There is no need to stress the importance of national lan-guage (Japanese) education. National assimilation is attained by language assimilation; this is clear from past and recent history." ("Thought of Educa-tion in Korea" 1929 edition. P. 402).

Japan's policy of obliterating the Korean lan-guage greatly affected the intellectual development of Koreans.

According to publications of the time, 72 per cent of the Korean population were illiterate in 1933. A Japanese document said that 15.8 million Koreans were illiterate in 1934.

2.

The Japanese attempts to murder the Korean language were a crime committed in all areas of life.

The imperialists did not allow Koreans to use their language in education, the press, broadcasting, theatre, films, music and linguistics, nor even in home life. They forced Korean students to bow deeply to a picture of the Japanese emperor when they entered their classrooms, and they were forced to state that "Our national language is Japanese" and "Our national flag is the flag of the Rising Sun". At primary schools, the pupils had to learn the song of the "Rising-Sun Flag" before all others.

The policy intensified from 1905 on. This is proved by their investment in Japanese language education.

According to the school budget in the 1906-1907 annual report on Korea policy, that year's total budget for all high schools in Korea was 7,273 yen. The bud-get for the Seoul Japanese language school was 9,337 yen while the same school in Inchon received a total of 3,878 yen. The temporary training of teachers to train Japanese interpreters was allocated 1,680 yen.

Korean-speaking students were brutally repressed by the Japanese.

Those who spoke their national language were insulted, disciplined, fined or expelled from school, subjected to other forms of humiliation and mal-treatment, or sometimes even beaten or prosecuted.

In 1942, the Japanese renamed the Korean Writ-ers' Association the Korean Patriotic Writers' Association and forced its 200 members to write in Japanese, including the association's journal, National

Literature. They also forced the Korean Playwriters' Association to perform plays in Japanese. After 1943 they made its members show at least one act of their plays entirely in Japanese. From 1941 they pressurized record makers to record more than one verse of Korean songs in Japanese. In 1942, they set up the Korean Film Company and compelled it to produce Japanese films, with all dia-logue in the Japanese language.

The Japanese imperialists attached great impor-tance to the press. In 1910, they outlawed 255 publi-c ations. They devoted a column of the Maeil Sinbo to the "Japanese language classroom" twice a week and issued a special newspaper, Hwangmin Ilbo, to promote the spread of Japanese.

They also suppressed the study of the Korean language. They used government-serving scholars to preach that the Korean and Japanese languages were of the same linguistic family.

They carried their anti-Korean policy into the homes of Koreans and even started a movement for the daily use of Japanese. After 1942, they advanced slogans such as "Japan and Korea are one, beginning with the everyday use of Japanese", "From school Japanese to life Japanese" and "Let's use Japanese all the time!" Various methods were used in their efforts to make all officials and people use Japanese. Government agencies had Koreans display notices such as, "Habitual use of Japanese" or "Daily use of Japanese" on their house gates. They also praised Koreans by distinguishing "Japanese using families" and "houses making regular use of Japanese."

If the Koreans used their mother-tongue they were denied admission to schools of higher grade, appointment as officials, train or bus ticket procure-ment and the supply of the trifling food and other daily necessities. These are facts which have been irrefutably proved by those who experienced them.

3.

The Japanese imperialists' anti-Korean policy was a grave crime which deprived Koreans of their names.

Koreans have had their distinctive names since ancient times.

Their surnames are associated with national and family traditions and their given names reflect their parents' aspirations and expectations, with noble and beautiful meanings. But the Japanese imperial-ists forced Koreans to change their names to Japanese ones without hesitation.

In April 1937, they set up a law amendment study committee and held a meeting on the change of Korean names. In June 1939, they discussed mea-sures to speed up the change of Korean names at a meeting of the privy council.

On this basis, on November 10, 1939, they demanded, in order No. 19 of the Korean govern-ment-general, that "Korean householders (or legal agents when there are legal agents) change their names within six months of this order becoming effective and submit them to county, town or subcounty chiefs."

They laid this legal foundation to back their campaign to change Korean names and established laws to punish those who did not obey their order.

The Korean government-general and other rul-ing bodies and institutions such as provincial, coun-ty and subcounty offices, police stations and police substations, and schools, as well as various pro-Japanese bodies, did their best to implement the change of Korean names. They branded those who did not obey as "anti-national, unhealthy Koreans" and persecuted them. Many were drafted for mili-tary or labour service. Police stations, police substa-tions and subcounty offices entered in family regis-ters only those who had changed their names, great-ly discriminating between them and those who refused to change their names.

The government made Koreans display their nameplates at their house gates to monitor the change of names. They refused to accept birth reports from those who kept their Korean names, or simply changed the names of Koreans as they liked.

As a result, many Koreans had Japanese names against their will. Threatened with the expellation of his son from school, a father changed his name. Conscience-stricken with this crime against his ancestors, he threw himself into a well with a large stone in his arms. This is one of many sad stories produced by the Japanese imperialists' acts.

Despite these hard historical facts, the Japanese government is playing a hundred and one tricks to distort, conceal or attempt to justify their crimes in Korea.

Approving history textbooks in 1982 and 1985, the Japanese government instructed that "Japanese education" and the "change of Korean names" should not be described as the denial of nationality. Former Japanese premier Hosokawa, at his talks with the south Korean authorities in Kyongju, south Korea in early November 1993, tried to cover up the past crimes of Japan with such expressions as the one that the Japanese imperialists "forced the Kore-ans to do abnormal things to change their names and deprived them of educational opportunities."

Recently, the Japanese authorities, disregarding almost unanimous domestic and international protest and denunciation, approved the history text-book for secondary schools which greatly distorts, embellishes or omits hard historical facts. They are trying to use the fully intact version in the educa-tion system.

But history is not changed by distorting it, nor does it cease to exist by its denial.

The Korean people shall never forget the misfor-tune and suffering imposed on them by the Japanese imperialists in the past. They intend to make them pay dearly for them.

Korean linguists strongly demand that the Japanese government should officially apologize and compensate for the Japanese imperialists' past crimes in Korea.

DPRK Linguistic Society

Absurd MD System

All mankind hope that the catastrophic wars, domination and subordination seen in the last century will not be repeated.

But there is one country which still resorts to aggression, war and dominationist moves, running counter to the aspira-tions of mankind and the current of the times.

The Bush administration, which took office in January of the first year of the new century, is stepping up the establishment of the Missile Defence (MD) sys-tem, despite the persistent oppo-sition of the world public.

The hardline conservatives of the administration are trying to achieve their ambition of world domination, resorting to their nuclear weapons and military power under the slogan of the "building of a powerful United States".

In implementing the strategy of world domination by force of arms, the US regards the MD system as a key component. It alleges that the system aims to defend the US mainland against missiles launched from "rogue countries".

Stress began to be laid on the expression "rogue country" in 1994, when Clinton was in power. In June last year, the Clinton administration changed the expression to a "problematic country".

Now the Bush administration again use the word "rogue".

The definition of a "rogue country" is not clear. It means the countries whic h develop nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and missiles, persecute their own people and are hostile to the US. It claims that these countries may launch missiles against the US.

For this reason, upon its inau-guration, the Bush admi-nistration set the establishment of the MD system as its foremost task and spares no effort to put it into effect.

In his speech at the unofficial Nato summit held in Brussels on June 13, during his visit to the European Union, Bush expressed his intention to deploy the MD system "as quickly as possible".

At the congress, the director of the ballistic missile defence bureau of US Department of Defence, urged delegates to wait with patience for the tests of the MD programme. In reality, the tests have resulted in failure sev-eral times.

In late January, testing of laser weapons designed to inter-cept ballistic missiles was carried out, and on March 31 a test launch of an interceptor missile aimed to establish the MD sys-tem. Billions of dollars have been spent on several other tests.

All these activities have been denounced around the world.

An international seminar heldin Russia, "Weaponry-free Space—the world arena for coop-eration in the 21st century", con-demned the establishment of the MD system by the US, branding it a dangerous attempt to upset the global strategic balance and create instability.

In his meeting with Colin Powell, the US Secretary of State, French President Chirac expressed his dissatisfaction with the MD programme and said that the US scheme troubles France.

A demonstration was staged in London in opposition to the space war programme of the US. Demonstrators demanded that the moves of the US to militarize space should not be tolerated.

Military experts in Russia said that to fulfil the task of intercepting missiles, the wea-pons of the MD system would have to be deployed not only on the ground, but also in orbiting space stations, which will result in the militarization of space.

Objections are raised to the MD system within the United States,too.

Members of the foreign affairs committee and military commit-tee of the US Senate denounced the attempt of the Bush admi-nistration to abrogate the ABM (anti-ballistic missile) treaty by establishing the MD system, say-ing it will bring about another Cold War and re-ignite the arms race.

The Los Angeles Times noted that Bush is throwing not only the United States, but the whole world into a new, potentially dangerous situation by trying to create the MD system in haste. It said that the system is the "wrong device at the wrong time".

Is it possible to put into effect the MD system after its rejection at home and abroad?

The US has already invested $100 billion in this project. Now Bush plans to put another $100 billion into it without technical security.

The Bush administration is to spend $343 billion on its military in the new fiscal year, much more than that in the previous year, much of which is to be invested in the establishment of the MD system.

A member of the Democratic Party of the US, said, "It is a foolish announcement in view of the purpose of the domestic politics, and in a long-term sense it would not consolidate the security of the US."

Then, why is the US stubbornly persisting with the MD system?

Put simply, it is now trying to create a US-led unipolar world, pursuing global domination.

Greeting the new century, mankind wants a multi-polarized world; in other words, a world free from domination and subordination.

But the current US administration answered mankind with the plan of the MD system.

So is the plan really feasible?

A US expert commented: The MD system is often said to have deterrents. But, it is no problem whether this is feasible or not. We'd be better to make the MD system look like a scarecrow standing in the fields.

Even an American branded it as a scarecrow system.

The US administration should recognize the current of the times and act accordingly, instead of wasting money on this system.

US and Japanese forces conduct rehearsals for a new war.

Miniature of Kobukson Displayed

Recently, the Korean Central History Museum has minimized the model of Kobukson (turtle-shaped amoured ship), a worthy invention of the Korean nation, in scientific detail.

The newly restored ship is a one-seventh miniature of the ship which displayed its might in the sea battle against foreign forces during the Imjin Patriotic War (1592-1598), and which was 35 metres long, 11.8 metres wide and 5.2 metres high.

The deck is roofed by strong amour, which is covered with spikes and nails to prevent enemies from crawling up it, and has 70 holes for the firing of cannons, rifles and arrows.

On each flank are 10 oars, while two sails utilized the power of the wind when needed.

For its strong amour, fire-power and mobility, Kobukson was a powerful combat vessel which few enemy ships dared confront at the time.

Settlement of Gl Crimes : a Must

Korea Today reporter Sung Ji Hye interviewed Deputy Secretary General Pang Kum Chan of the Korean Democratic Lawyers' Association in connection with the recently held Korea International Tribunal on US War Crimes Dur- ing the Korean War (1950-1953).

Reporter: The US troops committed unprecedented mas- sacre of civilians in the northern and southern regions of Korea during the war.

Pang Kum Chan: In the last Korean war, the Koreans and the people of conscience from around the world conducted activities to collect facts on GI atrocities. The fact finding missions of the Women's International Demo- cratic Federation, the Interna- tional Association of Democratic Lawyers and the International Scientific Commission examined evidence of civilian massacre and germ and chemical warfare and disclosed the results of their find- ings to the public. They created a worldwide sensation.

The issue of GI massacre was highlighted again recently when an AP report dated September 1999 said that US troops killed many refugees in Rogun-ri, south Korea, during the war.

In response to this revelation, the Rogunri-Truth Commission was organized in south Korea and the Korea Fact-Finding Com- mission, an overseas compatriots' organization in the United States, to begin examination of GI atrocities.

In April this year, the over- seas headquarters of the Korea Truth Commission (KTC) sug- gested that the north and south jointly prosecute GI crimes at the tribunal, in order to satisfy the old resentment of the 70 million fellow Koreans.

In response to the initiative, the Korean Democratic Lawyers' Association from the northern side and the legal support group of the southern headquarters of the KTC drew up an indictment in the joint names of 70 million Koreans and presented it to the court.

On the basis of the investiga- tion by the International Fact-Finding Mission on US Crimes, the tribunal exposed the barbari- ty of the GIs to the public.

Reporter: I'd like to know about the activities of the Inter- national Fact-Finding Mission on US Crimes.

Pang: The mission visited Korea for three nights and four days in May.

They first went to Sinchon in South Hwanghae Province, the region which witnessed the worst atrocities of the US soldiers. They looked round Sinchon Museum, the tombs of 5,605 patriots, 400 mothers and 102 children, and examined evidence that the GIs, during their 50-day occupation of Sinchon, slaughtered 35,383 peo- ple, or a quarter of the county population, in most barbarous ways.

They also listened to the testi- mony of victims who were forced to suffer terrible pain and anguish.

The US soldiers threw child- ren into a storehouse and did not give even a single drop of water to them, instead pouring gasoline in and setting fire to the building.

They then threw in hand-grenades to kill any survivors.

They stripped people of their clothes, tied them in groups and buried them alive. They killed others by nailing them through the head, or bound their limbs to ox-carts to tear them to death. They even ripped open the abdomen of a pregnant woman.

Saying that he felt guilty as a citizen of the United States, the head of the mission, Ramsey dark, a former US Attorney General, noted that the victims' tes timony was very important as it indicted a part of the US histo- ry of aggression against Korea.

The next stop on their ins- pection tour was the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum. The members of the group said that they had previ- ously heard terribly distorted facts on the Korean war, but through the displayed materials at the museum they had come to realize that the US was the pro- voker of the Korean war, heinous aggressor and the party directly responsible for the massacre.

Before coming to the north, the mission went through several regions of south Korea to investi- gate GI crimes.

Reporter: The Korea Inter- national Tribunal on US War Crimes During the Korean War took place under the co-sponsor- ship of the KTC and anti-war peace organizations from several countries.

The tribunal was rather large in scale and the first of its kind in history, as it involved the partici- pation of more than 700 individu- als, including prominent lawyers, politicians, anti-war activists, anti-war peace organizations in the US and non-governmental organizations from more than 20 countries of the world.

Pang: You are right. As it was an international tribunal, it consisted of an international trial department, an international prosecutors' team, a team of attorneys, and a multi-national Jury.

The tribunal was led by two co-judges, six international co-prosecutors, and 26

jurymen of civilian origin from 18 nations.
in the tribunal as joint plaintiff, but the north Korean delegation was unable to take part as the US State Department prohibited its entry into their country.
The tribunal was held from June 23 to 25 at the UN Church Centre in New York.
The chief prosecutor Ramsey Clark and several other prosecu-tors indicted the US on crimes committed during the peaceful days between 1945 and 1950, the division and occupation of the Korean peninsula, the people's uprising on Jeju Island, and GI atrocities in Rogun-ri and other south Korean regions between 1950 and 1953.
The chief prosecutor said in his speech that the US committed all kinds of crimes, including the slaughter of over 3 million civil-ians, during the Korean war, and the US deserves to be punished in the name of the international treaty that respects peace, human rights and national dignity.
According to the prosecution, the tribunal judged all the crimes the US committed in Korea since its occupation of south Korea after liberation from Japanese rule.
The joint prosecution proved that all the civilian massacres committed before, during and after the war were state-sanc-tioned criminal acts, organized and systematically carried out by US troops.
The jury announced in their verdict that all the US presidents after Truman in 1945, state secre-taries, defence secretaries, The north and the south of Korea were to have informa-tion agency chiefs of all levels, and UN forces commanders in south Korea are guilty of anti-human war crimes, including murder.
The participants urged more fact-finding on US crimes, pun-ishment on those responsible, restoration of the victims' reputa-tion and authority, compensation on the US government and the prevention of any re-occurrence of such events.
The crimes can never be for-gotten, even after the guilty ver-dict, but the time has surely come for settlement.

Schoolchildren's Sports Schools on the Increase

Schoolchildren's sports schools, whose mission is to train future athletes, have recently been established at modern gymnasiums and stadi-ums in Pyongyang.
Similar schools have already appeared at Pyongyang Indoor Stadium, Changgwang Health Complex, Ice Rink, and swimming and table tennis cen-tres in Chongchun Street, Pyongyang.
Now nine more sports facili-ties have set up schools, includ-ing Kim Il Sung Stadium, and the basketball, volleyball and handball gymnasiums and Sosan football stadium in Chongchun Street. A total of ten sports events are being taught by the new schools. This has laid firm foundations for providing good quality and sys-tematic training to young ath-letes.
The sports school affiliated to Kim Il Sung Stadium will teach football and track-and-field events, while the gymnasi-ums specializing participated in ball sports in Chongchun Street will train players of basketball, handball and volleyball.
The non-contact event gym-nasium will train future gym-nasts for heavy gymnastics, cal-isthenics and acrobatic gym-nastics, with the combat event gymnasiums coaching young-sters in boxing, judo, wrestling and weightlifting.

DPRK Team Comes First in Total

The DPRK snatched 17 gold, five silver medals and four cups at the 12th World Tae-kwon-Do Championships held in Italy in July.
More than 700 Taekwon-Do performers and coaches from 64 countries took part in the championships.
The DPRK came first in the men's and women's team pat-tern events, the men's team forte, the women's team spar-ring and the women's team power respectively.
Pu Song Min, Chae Sim Myong and Kim Song Guk came first in their levels of the men's individual pattern event by grade. Other golds went to Ro Song Hui, Pak Myong Sun, Jong Son Hui, Kim Kyong Sil in women's individual pattern by grade;
Ro Song Hui, Kim Hyang Nam and Ri Chun Hui in the women's indivudual sparring by weight category; Sin Hae Song in the women's individ-ual forte; and Kim Kyong Sil in the women's individual power.
Kim Yong Gun was runner-up in the men's individual pat-tern event, while Ri Chol Nam and 0 Phyong Rim took silver in the men's individual spar-ring by weight categories.
The DPRK team took sec-ond

place in the men's team sparring and women's team forte events

Korean painting" Koryo-dong in Kaesong City"

This Korean painting is a landscape painting drawn by Mun Hwa Chun, a 63-year-old artist at the Songhwa Academy of Art, in Juche88 (1999).

It portrays part of the spring scene of Koryo-dong in Kaesong, the capital city of the Koryo dynasty.

The hoary-looking tile-roofed houses, full-blown peach blossom, green trees in which the sap is beginning to rise, a blue stream flowing by the trees-this beautiful scene in Koryo-dong is symbolic of the excellent cultural heritage of our nation which is now well kept.

Through the depiction of details of people's life, it provides a reflection of their strong affection fro the home village where they were born and grew up.

The sharp contrast between the colours used, combined with lively stroking, makes the painting bright and vivid.